Railway Herald

Issue 254 - 31st January 2011

Farewell to Wrexham & Shropshire : 28th April 2008 - 28th January 2011

Railway Herald

Issue 254
31st January 2011

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Colour Spectrum : The Class 142

An occasional new series looking at the variety of liveries carried by different types of rolling stock on Britain's railways. In this first feature, the Class 142 DMUs come under the spotlight with a look at the majority of the colour schemes carried over the past 25 years.

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Front Cover Caption:

Presenting a uniformed, smart sight, Wrexham & Shropshire-liveried Class 67 No. 67013 powers a five-coach refurbished Mk3 set on the final 13.28 Wrexham to London Marylebone service across Pentre Viaduct, north of Chirk, on the final day of operations, 28th January. John Whitehouse

Wrexham & Shropshire ceases services with two days notice

A little under three years since services commenced, Wrexham & Shropshire issued a shock announcement on 26th January, stating that all services would cease from the end of operations on 28th January.

The news hit hard with passengers, the rail industry and enthusiasts alike. In its 33-months of operation, Wrexham & Shropshire has built a reputation around its quality of service and invested time and money in its staff, rolling stock and business plan. The announcement even received a mention on BBC Radio 4's 'Today' programme on the morning of 28th January.

In a press statement, the company Chairman, Adrian Shooter CBE said: "Regrettably, we have concluded that the potential for further changes to the company's operations, including any synergy with Arriva Trains Wales, will not improve the financial position sufficiently. The shareholders have invested in excess of £13 million in launching the business and funding its losses, and have now concluded that there is no reasonable prospect that Wrexham & Shropshire can become profitable, or offer a return on this investment".

▲ **With motive power supplied from the rear by Class 67 No. 67013** *Dyfrbont Pontcysyllte*, **Mk3 DVT No. 82301, complete with headboard, awaits departure from London Marylebone with the last Wrexham, Shropshire & Marylebone Railway service. On and off duty staff travelled on the last return working from Wrexham.**

The company, launched in April 2008, restored direct train services between Wrexham, Shropshire and London, using Class 67s from EWS (now DB Schenker) and Mk3 vehicles from Cargo-D. But, despite strong growth in passenger numbers, the business has not been able to generate sufficient revenues to cover more than 65% of the cost of operating the service, and in 2010 alone suffered losses of £2.8 million.

Wrexham & Shropshire has undertaken a series of activities in an attempt to move the business into profit. In 2009 the original service of five trains per day was reduced to four. This was followed in December 2010 when two lightly used services were combined to reduce the timetable to three trains per day. In addition, an agreement was reached with sister company Chiltern Railways to run trains on its behalf and the company investigated opportunities for operational and management synergy between Wrexham & Shropshire and Arriva Trains Wales, both companies owned by DB. The opportunity to generate income by serving Wolverhampton, after April 2012 when contractual restrictions were expected to be removed was also considered.

Those travelling with Wrexham & Shropshire regularly reported a satisfactory service, indeed in the same Passenger Survey, the company achieved 92% in the value for money stakes, beating the second place company, Grand Central - also an open-access operator - by 18%!

Chairman, Adrian Shooter said: "Even though we are forced to close the business, we remain extremely proud of what we have achieved with Wrexham & Shropshire; with many stating that we set the standard for all other train companies to follow. I would like to pay tribute to Andy Hamilton, Managing Director, and everyone in the Wrexham & Shropshire team. Our people are the best in the business and have set the standard for others to follow". Given the company's achievement in not only reaching a high standard, but also beating all other franchise and open-access rail operators in the 'overall satisfaction' category of the Passenger Focus Autumn 2010 National Passenger Survey, both management and staff should be justly proud of what has been achieved by an open-access operator with no Government funding.

A video report on the last day, from ITV Central News can be view by clicking here.

◀ ▼ **An emotional day draws to a close as staff gather for photographs, and a colleague adds his name to the back of the headboard. The hand written messages by the staff tells a heart-felt story of a sad end to a well-liked service. The most poignant and heart-felt message being by Mr. Peter Ward who wrote "40 years on the footplate - this was the best 3 years". All: Ken Brunt**

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Revised plans for a smaller additional depot at Hornsey go on display

Revised plans for an additional train maintenance depot at Hornsey have gone on show to residents.

The new depot will house the new, longer trains for the upgraded Thameslink route, and is to be built entirely on operational railway land at the northern end of Coronation Sidings, north of the existing Hornsey Depot. Residents have been given an opportunity to have their say on what is now a much lower-profile design than that originally planned, the new concept being 45% smaller and 2 metres lower than before, accommodating three trains instead of the original six.

Network Rail originally consulted with local people on plans for a new depot at the location in 2009, and an application was submitted to Haringey Council in August that year. Following a reassessment of the depot requirements across the Thameslink route, and after taking into account comments received in the 2009 public consultation, the significantly smaller building has a much reduced impact on the existing railway embankment to preserve vegetation, has changes to the location of other associated buildings, and a 120 new jobs will provide employment opportunities and should boost the local economy.

A train washer and an underframe cleaning facility will be located beside the building, and the train washer at the southern end of the site near the existing depot will remain. The new scheme seeks to reduce potential environmental problems wherever possible by reducing visual impact and having acoustic noise barriers where necessary. A full Environmental Impact Assessment is also being undertaken, which will consider other factors such as air quality, ecology, water and cultural heritage. Construction is planned to start by the end of this year and will take approximately two years to complete.

▼ **Freightliner Class 70 No. 70001** *Powerhaul* **replaces the usual Class 90 on the Felixstowe to Crewe Basford Hall intermodal service, seen here passing, through a wet Bletchley on 24th January. Adrian Perks**

UK News In Brief

■ Vandals brought disruption to Fife on 25th January, after they cut through a live 650-volt signalling cable at Inverkeithing in an apparent attempt to steal its copper.

■ The Wessex Chamber of Commerce and Wiltshire Council have commissioned Network Rail to assess the viability of a new north to south route stopping at Wootton Bassett, a station which closed 45 years ago. The proposal is that a new Swindon to Salisbury service could be inaugurated, with a new station built on the site of the old one.

■ GB Railfreight has been named as the preferred bidder for the internal shunting movements contract at Celsa Steel, Cardiff, an operation previously handled by DB Schenker. As preferred bidder, the company says it is looking at all aspects of the contract, including track, locomotives and manpower.

■ East Coast is to reintroduce a London to Harrogate service from the May timetable change, the first such working for 20 years. The town has had a southbound morning working to London, which has operated for several years, but no evening return. The new service will depart King's Cross at 17.30 and arrive at Harrogate, via Leeds, at 20.30.

■ Network Rail has commenced a feasibility study, commissioned by the Welsh Assembly, which aims to give a clear picture of the viability of the Amlwch branch on Anglesey, if it were to be reopened. The 4.5-mile line from Llangefni to Gaerwen, which has not seen any traffic since the operations to the chemical plant at Amlwch ceased in 1993, will be studied, along with the bridges, culverts and the wildlife. The study may take up to a year to complete.

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Station Improvements
Round-Up

Refurbishment and renewal of the station footbridge and platform canopies at Eastleigh progresses slowly.

Close by at St Denys, a large temporary scaffolding footbridge has been erected, the old latticework footbridge now has scaffolding around it presumably for renovation work.

Dartford station is to be overhauled in a £7 million project that will provide additional parking, a larger ticket hall, curved facade, refurbished footbridge and a new lift.

A new platform passenger shelter and better cycle parking are just two of the improvements for Marlow station, after a grant of £6,100 was made by Buckinghamshire County Council's Marlow Local Area Forum. First Great Western and Marlow Town Council, which kick-started the scheme, say they will fund any difference in costs. Cycle parking at Cookham station is also being funded by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

Work has started at Wellingborough station to provide passengers with step-free access between the station entrance and platforms. The project, which is being jointly funded by Network Rail and the Government's 'Access for All' programme, will include the installation of a new footbridge and two new lifts, providing an accessible route from the station entrance to all three platforms for the first time, and making it easier and safer for passengers to move around the station. The new footbridge and lifts will allow the barrow crossing to be closed, and will mean that the speed restriction currently in place for trains passing through the station can be removed, increasing the maximum line speed by 15mph to 80mph.

Glasgow City Council has committed £2 million to build a new station at Dalmarnock , which will be a key gateway to Commonwealth Games venues in 2014. Strathclyde Partnership for Transport and Clyde Gateway have also committed £2 million each to the project, and the European Regional Development Fund will contribute the remaining £2.9 million. Construction of a new building is expected to begin next summer and completion is expected in 2013.

◀ **Class 465/2s at Dartford. On the left, No. 465245 awaits departure as the 11.19 to Cannon Street, via Woolwich Arsenal and Greenwich, while on the right No. 465244 leads the 10.32 Charing Cross-Gravesend service, via Sidcup. Brian Morrison**

▲ **The 15.30 East Coast service to Edinburgh Waverley awaits departure time in the new Platform 0 at King's Cross on 26th January, headed by 'tinfoil'-liveried Class 91/1 No. 91101. In Platform 1, classmate No. 91117 is about to leave with the 14.35 Leeds service. Brian Morrison**

▼ **On 17th January, Northern Rail Class 153 No. 153378 comes to a stand at Thornton Abbey station, with the 11.58 Barton-on-Humber to Cleethorpes service. The impressive running in boards were restored by the 'Friends of the Barton Line' in September 2009 and are believed to be of LNER origin. Both: Bernard Warr**

▶ **The image of Class 153 No. 153378 at New Holland on 19th January, included last issue was incorrectly credited. Our apologies.**

◀ Two London Midland Class 321/4s are currently on hire to National Express East Anglia, Nos. 321411 (in London Midland livery) and 321415 (in Silverlink colours). On 22nd January, No. 321411 is pictured in London Liverpool Street awaiting departure on the 07.32 service to Colchester Town. **Russell Young**

▼ Freightliner Class 66/5 No. 66590 heads a diverted Felixstowe to Crewe Basford Hall intermodal service along the East Coast Main Line, close to Tallington Level Crossing, north of Peterborough, on 22nd January. During January and February some of these weekend workings are diverted via Peterborough, instead of the usual WCML, as a result of engineering work. **Adrian Perks**

UK Steam & Modern Traction Railtour Listings

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	
23rd February 2011			
Rail-Blue Charters	tbc	Leicester-Shefield-S&C-Carlisle & return	**Postponed**
Railway Touring Co.	34067	London Victoria-Maidstone East-Rye-Hastings (short break)-Crowhurst-Battle-Tunbridge Wells-Sevenoaks-Bat & Ball-Swanley-Bromley South-London Victoria	

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.

New charters announced by Spitfire Railtours

'Routes 'n' Branches' is the apt title of Spitfire's latest offering, which roams the Southeastern network for 24 hours from mid-evening on 1st April until roughly the same time on 2nd April.

With a pair of West Coast Class 37s in 'top and tail' mode for traction, the overnight leg of the tour sets off from Paddington at 20.00, and is scheduled to visit Lymington Pier, Henley-on-Thames, Bourne End, Windsor & Eton Central and St Albans Abbey, before rolling into Euston some 11 hours later. After an hour to stock up on life's necessities, 'Routes 'n' Branches 2 ' sets off again for a further 13 hours of classic touring and track bashing, which will include the delights of reversals at Caterham, Guildford, Waterloo, Tonbridge, Redhill, Bognor Regis, Littlehampton and Willesden S.W. Sidings, before finally setting down at Acton Central and Ealing Broadway. To give an idea of the complexity of the variety of routes being taken, the tour will at some point pass through Clapham Junction four times from varying directions. Basic requirements for the run will be a very good rail atlas, a ready supply of beverages, pies and sandwiches and stamina by the bucket load!

A week earlier, and Spitfire has 'The Holy Oakes' from Taunton to Manchester and Chester, with an add-on for Holyhead. The train picks up at Weston-super-Mare, Bristol Temple Meads and Bristol Parkway, Cam & Dursley, Cheltenham Spa, Worcester Shrub Hill, Droitwich Spa and Tame Bridge Parkway, before heading initially to Manchester Victoria and then Chester. The mini tour to Angelsey overlaps the main tour itinerary as it operates from Manchester Victoria and Chester to Holyhead. The route north and the traction has yet to be confirmed. More details have also been announced concerning the weekend of 'Deltic' activity scheduled for 4th-6th March featuring No. 55022 *Royal Scots Grey*. The outward positioning working on 4th March from Preston to Euston, and the main tour on 5th March between King's Cross and Edinburgh remains as previously detailed, but the return positioning train on 6th March will now work out of Euston and follow the WCML, via Northampton instead of the originally proposed route from Paddington, due to engineering works in the Didcot area.

▼ **WCRC Class 37s Nos. 37676 and 37248 pass Bescot, with an ECS working. WCRC 37s feature again in the 2011 Spitfire programme. John Whitehouse**

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Almost 100 charter services planned to operate for Railway Touring Company in 2011

Without doubt The Railway Touring Company will provide the most comprehensive programme of steam-hauled charter trains in 2011.

Its programme currently runs to 50 'one-off' charter trains scheduled for the year, and by the time you add in the regular high-season repeat itinerary workings and specials such as 'The Great Britain IV', the figure almost doubles. That is the equivalent of nearly two trains for every week of the year! Detailing all these in one article is almost as daunting, so we will split the programme into bite-size segments over the coming weeks. Suffice to say, it is an awesome programme.

In the period from 12th February until 'The Great Britain IV' eases out of King's Cross on 16th April, RTC has nine scheduled workings, and it is difficult to single out one as more special than others. Four of the trains run to familiar itineraries, with three 'Sussex Belles' on 12th and 23rd February and 31st March and one to Bath and Bristol from Three Bridges on 19th March, all of which are booked for Battle of Britain Pacific No. 34067 *Tangmere*. The latter tour is no doubt the replacement for the pre-Christmas one with the same itinerary, which never got beyond the starting blocks due to the failure of 'Black 5' No. 44932 on the empty stock working.

The remaining five trains will be taken in chronological order, commencing with a double-header featuring 'Black 5' 4-6-0 No. 44871 and 'Jubilee' 4-6-0 No. 5690 *Leander* from Lancaster to Buxton on 26th February. This train follows an interesting route, as it crosses the Pennines twice, running initially via the Calder Valley, Normanton and Barnsley to Sheffield, and then onwards to Buxton by way of the Hope Valley and Peak Forest. The return takes the more direct route through Chapel-en-le-Frith to Stockport and then directly back to Lancaster, via Bolton. Two weeks later and the 'Lincoln Imp' is essentially a circular tour from St Pancras International to its next-door neighbour, King's Cross, with 'Britannia' Pacific No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* for traction. The route follows the Midland Main Line to Kettering, then across Harringworth Viaduct, en route to Melton Mowbray, Loughborough, Nottingham and eventually Lincoln. The return is by the more direct line through Sleaford to Peterborough and the East Coast Main Line to King's Cross.

The last three trains all have an East Coast flavour, either as a departure point or destination. The North Norfolk Railway (NNR) and the second steam charter to cross the divide between the National Network and the heritage line at Sheringham is scheduled for 26th March (note new date - originally advertised for 19th March) from London Liverpool Street. As with all such workings, because of the length of the turn-back at Cromer, the train will be split at Norwich with half the passengers travelling outwards to Holt, the NNR's western terminus, by train and the remainder by road coaches. This train is booked for BR Standard 7MT Pacific No. 70000 *Britannia*, and if not the first, it will be one of that locomotive's opening main line runs after overhaul. It is also scheduled for the 'The Liverbird' the following week, from the bracing East Coast resort of Cleethorpes to the equally bracing West Coast seaport of Liverpool. The train crosses the Pennines outwards by way of the Calder Valley, with the return taking the more southerly Standedge route.

The bracing qualities of certain resorts at this time of year have already been mentioned, and on 9th April 'The Jolly Fisherman' heads for the town which is synonymous with the word - Skegness! The train is booked for a 'Britannia', although at this point, which one has still to be confirmed. It originates at King's Cross and reaches Sleaford via Peterborough. An interesting feature of the tour is that from Sleaford the locomotive will run tender-first via Boston and Wainfleet to Skegness. The return is more straight forward, being routed via Sleaford to Grantham and then the ECML back to King's Cross.

One important change to RTC's early season programme is that its groundbreaking 'Peak Forester' from St Pancras International to Matlock and Rowsley, booked for 5th March, has been postponed until Sunday 22nd May. Lack of paths on a Saturday is believed to have caused the tour to be re-dated to a Sunday. It will run to the same itinerary, but will now be hauled by No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* instead of 'Royal Scot' 4-6-0 No. 46115 *Scots Guardsman*.

◀ One loco that will feature heavily in 2011, is Ian Riley's 'Black 5' No. 44871. With low cloud covering Pen-y-Ghent, it passes Selside on 28th September 2010, with a Hellifield to Carlisle private charter. Mick Langton

An almost complete No. 6023 *King Edward II* stands in the shed yard at a Didcot on 20th January. Frank Dumbleton

Single-chimney 'King' moves under its own power

The almost complete GWR 'King'4-6-0 No. 6023 *King Edward II* **had its first test steaming on 20th January, when it moved about 100 yards in front of the engine shed at Didcot.**

It was the first time that the loco had moved under its own power since 1962, as well as the first occasion that the exhaust beat of a single-chimney King has been heard since the mid-1950s.

While there are the inevitable few snags remaining to be ironed out before the locomotive can be painted ready for its public launch on 2nd April, the test steaming was, overall, a success.

In a related development, the Great Western Society has announced that Malcolm Dean has agreed to be the Rail Tours Manager for main line running of No. 6023 *King Edward II* and in due course No. 4079 *Pendennis Castle*. Malcolm has been a member of the society for over 40 years, as well as a career railwayman. During his time with London Underground he was responsible for organising and running the popular and very successful 'Steam on the Met' operations during the 1990s and the early part of the last decade.

Appeal launch to cosmetically restore the NRMs *Winston Churchill*

The Friends of the National Railway Museum have started an appeal to raise the money needed to give Battle of Britain Pacific No. 34051 *Winston Churchill* **a new look in time for the 50th anniversary year of the wartime leader's death, the locomotive having hauled his funeral train from Waterloo to Hanborough on 30th January 1965.**

The locomotive was one of 44 Battle of Britain class engines designed by Oliver Bulleid for the Southern Railway between 1945 and 1950, all named after the people, aircraft, fighter squadrons and airfields involved in the Battle of Britain. Sir Winston was the first statesman to be given a state funeral in the 20th century, and after the locomotive bearing his name fulfilled its duty, it was preserved and joined the National Collection in 1966. Currently on display at the NRM in York, it is in the same condition in which it arrived, and is in urgent need of a cosmetic overhaul.

Chairman of the South of England Group, Ian Harrison said: "We are hoping to raise £35,000 by the end of the year and are planning a number of fundraising events across the UK. We are starting proceedings with a grand gala dinner at the National Railway Museum on 9th April, where our supporters can enjoy a four-course dinner, musical entertainment and the chance to win a number of unique prizes. We are determined that the work be carried out in good time for the 50th anniversary of Churchill's death and the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in 2015".

A special guest at the gala dinner will be James Lester, who was the fireman on Churchill's funeral train. His railway career began in 1957 as a cleaner at Nine Elms shed and finished in 2004 as the Traction Officer at Eurostar.

Tickets for the gala dinner cost £55 or £500 for a table of 10. Telephone the Friends office on 01904 636874 or email nrm.friends@nrm.org.uk to book. Donations to the appeal should be sent to FNRM (Winston Churchill), Leeman Road, York, Y026 4XJ

GCR offers 'Driver Experience' with 3850

The Great Central Railway (GCR) is offering a freight driving experience with guest ex-GWR 2800 class 2-8-0 No. 3850 on 3rd, 4th and 10th March.

Apart from being a unique opportunity to drive a heavy freight loco along GCR's double track line, there will also be the chance to have brakevan rides. The train itself will consist of up to 20 mixed goods or mineral wagons.

There is a Silver experience at £615 which offers shared driving (with one other person) over two return trips - some 32 miles. If the second person is a friend or family member then the cost for the latter is £535. There is also a Gold experience at £1,800, which offers a full day's driving exclusively for one person - four return trips - some 64 miles. This can also be shared as a group.

As always with a GCR driving experience, there are many extras as set out on the Driving Experience page of the website, click here.

Thieves steel £50,000+ worth of copper sheet from Bridgnorth boiler shop

The runaway world price of copper, due to a global shortage, came home to roost at Bridgnorth on 20th January when thieves broke into the boiler shop and got away with copper sheets worth in the region of £50,000 to £70,000.

The raid has been described as 'pre-planned and professional', as the security alarm had first to be disabled prior to gaining entry to the boiler shop by way of an air vent. The 30-ton overhead crane is reported to have been 'hot-wired' in order to lift the 11 sheets of copper onto a getaway vehicle. The sheets themselves were in varying sizes up to 10ft x 6ft, and weighed an estimated six tons. An earlier attempted break in just 24 hours before had been thwarted, and the SVR had taken immediate action to review security arrangements. But it appears the thieves were determined, and for them it was second time lucky.

Additionally, a made-up outside steam pipe for 1500 class 0-6-0PT No. 1501 was taken, as well as the chains from the gantry crane. The copper was intended for replacement sections of several locomotives, including 'Jinty' 0-6-0T No. 47383 and Class 8F 2-8-0 No. 48773.

The SVR is offering a £5,000 reward for information leading to the recovery of the stolen copper, but Boiler Contracts Manager, Duncan Ballard, thinks the plates are likely to be sold for scrap and exported. The security at Bridgnorth and other key sites has been significantly upgraded, and loss adjusters from the SVR's insurers have been appointed. The railway will most likely be fully compensated for the loss, but no doubt at the cost of extra security and higher future insurance premiums.

Along with the downturn in passenger numbers and now this theft, it has not been a good month for the SVR, but it is responding in a very positive manner, and is especially looking to offer some high profile events this year to boost patronage. The railway has been very active on the marketing front and looking ahead, has a number of special events planned to encourage visitors, especially those who would not normally visit a heritage railway.

The 'Swinging Sixties' weekend booked for 20th-22nd May will feature live tribute bands (The Upbeat Beatles, The Kinx and The Hwo) performing beneath the glazed roof on the concourse of Kidderminster station. The events will feature visiting locomotives and a 1960s fashion show, as well as vehicles and toys from that decade. More use will be made of its Travelling Post Office vehicle, which was one of those involved in the infamous Great Train Robbery of 1963 - and of course the Autumn Steam Gala, which is due to feature No. 6023 *King Edward II* and the Strathspey Railway's McIntosh 0-6-0 No. 828 will be one of the events of the year.

The SVR reopens on 12th February, following the completion of major engineering work and trackbed renewals at Arley and Bewdley, although until 26th March trains will operate between Bridgnorth and Highley only. During the half term holidays an ice skating rink will be installed at Kidderminster to keep the kids, and maybe even a few parents, happy if not a little bruised!

▲ **BR Standard Class 5MT 4-6-0 No. 73129, the only preserved Standard Class 5 fitted with Caprotti valve-gear, storms towards Burrs with a short parcels train on 24th January, during a photographic charter on the East Lancashire Railway. Stuart Chapman**

Ffestiniog Railway wins HLF grant for visitor experience

The Ffestiniog Railway Trust has been successful in securing a £16,700 development grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), to enable the railway to further a project aimed at enhancing the experience enjoyed by its visitors.

The project is called 'Our Heritage Journey', and is intended to uncover, restore and interpret the railway's heritage, which includes such things as historic boundary walls and fences. This will also include the recruitment of volunteers who will be trained in the art of conservation, as well as acting as tour guides.

The employment of an Education & Heritage Officer, whose job will be to help schools, other learners and visitors to maximise the benefits of their visit, is part of the plan, while Minffordd and Dinas stations will be designated as 'signing on' points for educational visits. The former will also be developed as a heritage centre, where historic railway items dating back to the 1830s will be on show.

The development grant will cover the costs of the initial plan, and the Ffestiniog Railway Trust now has a further two years to submit a detailed HLF application for funding of £332,000 towards the project, which has been costed at £531,878 in total.

▲ The ELR Winter Gala over the weekend of 22nd/23rd January ran with only four locomotives, after the failure of LMS Stanier 'Black 5' No. 45337 before the event. However, the main attraction was the visiting Severn Valley Railway's Ivatt 2MT 2-6-0 No. 46443. On 22nd January, No. 46443 was used on the early morning goods photo charter, pictured racing across Burrs Common as dawn tried to break through the heavy clouds. **Fred Kerr**

▶ On 22nd January, BR 8P Pacific No. 71000 *Duke of Gloucester* approaches Summerseat on a Rawtenstall-bound service on the same day. **Kevin Truby**

Midland Railway commences regular weekend operation

The Midland Railway Butterley is now operating each weekend and also every day during the schools half term week between 19th – 27th February.

To keep out the chill, passengers will be offered a free hot drink from the buffet at Butterley. The services will be operated by one of the railway's DMU sets and will run between 11.00 and 14.50. Additionally, the Railway Museum and Country Park will be open (weather permitting) as will the demonstration Signal Box and Victorian Railwayman's Church.

The West Shed will also be open to visitors to view how the overhaul of LMS 'Princess Coronation' Pacific No. 6233 *Duchess of Sutherland* is progressing. The shop at Butterley station will also be holding a sale, offering 10% off the cover price of all books.

Bridge work progresses at Blaenavon

Work on replacing the railway bridge spanning Varteg Road (Bridge No. 19), south of Blaenavon High Level station, has commenced with the lifting of the existing decking over the weekend of 22nd/23rd January.

The original plan was to lift the decking in one piece, but the bridge was heavier than anticipated and had to be cut into two. The new structure should be in place by mid to late April, and in the meantime work on the stonework will continue. Replacement of this bridge was delayed, as resources had earlier been diverted to dealing with the bridge crossing Big Pit Old Road, which had been found to be in a far worse condition.

The work is being undertaken by Griffiths of Abergavenney and will involve the double track bridge replaced by two separate bridges, one carrying the single-track railway and the other the cycle way. It will be constructed in steel while incorporating many of the features from the old bridge. Once complete, it will allow the railway to provide a run-round loop at Blaenavon, which was previously not possible. This will give a further 400-yards of track to the south of the station.

This year will be a significant year for the line, with the plan to open the extension to the Big Pit Mining Museum, which will also include a station at Furness Sidings, as well as the museum itself. Torfaen CBC has recently approved planning consent for both stations. The 2011 running season will commence on the first weekend in April, when it is planned to have Class 37s Nos. 37421 & 37216 in traffic, 'topping and tailing' Class 3CEP EMU No. 1198. On 2nd April No. 37421 will be on the 'up-hill' end of the train, and the locomotives will swap around for the following day. First steam operations of the year will be the 'Easter Bunnies' weekend from 22nd- 24th April.

▼ Class 141 No. 141113 waits at Stanhope on the Weardale Railway on 7th January, before working back to Bishop Auckland. **Phil Wallis**

GWR 2800 class 2-8-0 No. 3850 heads a rake of mineral wagons as it passes GWR 'Small Prairie' No. 5526 on an autocoach at Kinchley Lane, on the Great Central Railway, during a Russ Hillier photographic charter on 26th January. **Stuart Chapman**

Class 67 No. 67005 *Queen's Messenger* **passes Worksop with the Royal Train conveying HRH The Prince of Wales to Creswell on 24th January. Unusually, non-Royal Class 67 No. 67019 was on the rear of the working. Steven Craig**

Unique-liveried Class 60 No. 60074 *Teenage Spirit* **passes the listed station building at Earley on 27th January, hauling the 10.38 Sevington to Whatley empty aggregate working. Ken Brunt**

Still carrying its base DRS livery, although operated by GBRf, Class 66/4 No. 66404 heads a loaded coal service from Tyne Dock to Drax Power Station, through Knottingley on 28th January. **Neil Bradley**

COLOUR SPECTRUM

Class 142s

Love them or hate them, the Class 142 'Pacer' DMUs have filled a vital role on the commuter and branch services outside of London for around 25 years.

Developed as a replacement for first generation DMUs, the '142s' were little more than bus bodies on a two-axle rail underframe. Built in 1985/1986 by BREL Derby, using components from Leyland National, the fleet has carried numerous liveries, as this special feature shows.

▲ Class 142 Pacer No. 142082 arrives at York on 25th September 1995, forming the 13.43 service from Leeds, via Harrogate, in the original Provincial livery.

▶ In West Country brown & cream colours, Nos. 142019 & 142024 approach Umberleigh on 9th July 1986, forming a service from Barnstaple to Exeter St Davids.

▼ In Tyne & Wear livery, Pacer No. 142020 awaits departure from Newcastle on 5th December 1992, forming the 11.30 service from Middlesborough to Hexham.

▼▶ 'Pacer' No. 142003 awaits departure from Leeds on 24th April 1989, in the orange and brown Greater Manchester PTE colours. **All: Brian Morrison**

◀ Newly-reliveried in Regional Railways colours, No. 142091 is stabled at York on 25th September 1995.

▲ In the revised Regional Railways/Greater Manchester PTE livery, No. 142030 leaves Doncaster on 3rd May 1995, heading for Sheffield.

▼ An Arriva Trains Wales local service for Bargoed arrives at Gilfach Fargoed on 31st May 2005, formed of Valley Lines-liveried No. 142074. Valley Lines operated for five years from privatisation in 1996 until 2001, when it became part of the Wales & Borders franchise for two years until December 2003, following which, the franchise was let to Arriva Trains Wales for a 15-year period.

◀ A morning service from Hexham to Middlesbrough, via Newcastle, passes Stocksfield on 28th April 2004, formed of 'Pacer' No. 142020. Known as Northern Spirit and operated by MTL Group until 2000, when the company ran into difficulties and was sold to Arriva, the franchise becoming Arriva Trains Northern from April 2001, following which the company introduced its own livery, as seen here. **All: Brian Morrison**

◀ Class 142 No. 142065 stabled at Leeds on 21st May 1998, in what was then the new Northern Spirit livery for local services. Express services operated by Class 158 DMUs had a red base colour with a gold 'N'.

◀▼ Following a franchise change, when the TransPennine Express services were split off from the Northern Spirit (later Arriva Trains Northern) franchise, and the bulk of the First North Western services (excluding Barrow-in-Furness, Windermere and Llandudno trains) was merged with the remainder of the ATN franchise to create Northern Rail, the majority of units were simply debranded, while the new operators concentrated on delivering service improvements. Unbranded Arriva-liveried No. 142078 passes Gascoigne Wood on 21st July 2005. **Ron Cover**

◀ When FirstGroup purchased the remainder of the shares that it did not own in North Western Trains, the company kept the same livery, simply rebranded as First North Western. In this guise, No. 142039 awaits departure from Crewe on 8th June 2004, with a shuttle service to Chester, not Manchester Piccadilly as the destination blind would suggest.

▲ When a number of ex-First North Western Class 142s were transferred to First Great Western the sets were simply rebranded. Here, Class 142 Nos. 142028 and 142009 arrive at Starcross on 25th May 2008, forming the 15.06 Sunday service from Exeter St Davids to Paignton. **All: Brian Morrison** (unless otherwise indicated)

▼ Wearing the yellow and white MerseyRail / First North Western livery and now fitted with an electronic destination blind, No. 142047 arrives at Manchester Victoria with a local service on 25th May 2005. **Richard Tuplin**

▲ Class 142 Pacer No. 142034, in First North Western livery, but with Northern branding, arrives at Doncaster on 13th February 2007, forming the 12.17 Northern service from Scunthorpe to Lincoln, via Sheffield. **Brian Morrison**

▶ Northern Rail No. 142043 departs from Manchester Piccadilly on 6th October 2010, with a local service to Marple, while spare in the next platform is classmate No. 142032. **Richard Tuplin**

1st February 2011

Gravesend Railway Enthusiasts Society
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Windmill Street, Gravesend 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

Driffield & East Yorkshire Rly Society
The Sidings, Middle Street South, Driffield YO25 6PX. AGM followed by 'Steam on the Mainline and Royal Scot - Crewe to Carlisle'. Meeting commences at 19.30. £2 donation requested. Contact the Secretary on 01377 254068 or at eric2marshall@aol.com for further details.

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.

Plymouth Rly Circle
St Edward's Church Hall, Home Park Avenue, Peverell, Plymouth PL3 4PG 'Westcountry Rail & Bus during the 1950s' by Robert Crawley. Meeting commences at 19.30. Admission - Members £1, Visitors £2.

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. Starts 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'. Starts 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. Starts 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. Starts 19.30. Contact Kevin Plummer (evenings) on 01225 312564 for further details.

Continental Rly Circle
St Paul's Church Centre, Rossmore Road, Marylebone, London NW1 6NJ. 'Switzerland' by Brian Stephenson. Starts 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 Rly 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. Contact 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. Starts 20.30. Contact secretary@curc.org.uk.

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

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

12th February 2011

Bournemouth Rly Club
Winton Methodist Community Centre, All Purpose Room, Junction Alma Road & Heron Court Road, Winton, Bournemouth BH9 1DE 'The 08.35 from Waterloo' by Simon Foote. Starts 14.30. £2 donation. Contact Martyn Thresh on 01202 742099 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 Starts 20.00, Entrance fee £3. Contact Publicity Member on 01522-705365.

SEG (Sussex)
Deall Room, Southwick Community Centre, Southwick. AGM followed by 'Video Clips' by Derek Osborne. Starts 19.30. £2 Donation. Contact Bruce Cakebread on 01273 462094.

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.

15th February 2011

Monmouthshire Rly Soc.
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, Leeds LS1 3AX. TBA. Starts 19.30. £2 donation. Contact 01904 331973.

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.

▼ East Coast Class 43 powercar No. 43296 leads the diverted 10.30 Newcastle to King's Cross service through Hartlepool on the rarely used southbound line on 22nd January. **Paul Francis**

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. 'Preserved and Modern Traction in Europe from 2005' by Adrian Palmer. Starts 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. Starts 19.30. All welcome. Contact 01823 334188 for details.

19th February 2011
Great Western Society (South West)
Parish Centre, Church End Road, Kingskerswell, Torbay. 'The W.R. in Wales' by Amyas Crump. Starts 18.30. Contact 01803 336329.

Irwell Vale Railway Photographers
Irwell Vale Village Church, Irwell Vale, Rossendale. 'Cine Films of Richard Greenwood'. Starts 19.30. Contact Mike Taylor on 01282 436653.

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.

Plymouth Rly Circle
St Edward's Church Hall, Home Park Avenue, Peverell, Plymouth PL3 4PG 'Images of World Steam on Cine & Sound' by Terry Nicholls. Meeting commences at 19.30. Admission - Members £1, Visitors £2

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
Bournemouth Rly Club
Winton Community Centre, All Purpose Room, Junction Alma Road & Heron Court Road, Winton, Bournemouth BH9 1DE./ 'Built by Bulleid - Part 1" by Club Members. Starts 19.30. £2 donation. Contact Martyn Thresh on 01202 742099 for further details.

Warwickshire Rly Society
Joint Stock, Lower Temple Street, Birmingham City Centre. 'AGM & Annual Film Extraaganza'. Starts 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, 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. Starts 19.45. Entry £1.50. Contact Roger Harvey on 01255 677165.

Southern Electric Group (South Hampshire)
Eastleigh Railway Institute, Romsey Road, Eastleigh. 'HD Tramway Show' by John Laker. Starts 19.30. Entry £2. Contact 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. Starts 20.00. Contact the Chairman, Lionel Jones on 01934 628289 or at wsm1977rlysocy@talktalk.net for further details.

3rd March 2011
RCTS (Milton Keynes)
The Crown, Market Square, Stony Stratford MK11 1BE. 'Strictly Freight Only, Part 2' by Brian Ringer. Starts 19.30.

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.

7th March 2011
North Yorkshire Moors Railway (Northallerton)
Northallerton Town Cricket Club, Farndale Avenue, Northallerton. 'Vintage & Modern Railways in the West on Cine Film' by Terry Nichols. Meeting commences at 19.30. Admission £1.50. Contact the Secretary, Ian McInnes on 01642 767233 for further details.

8th March 2011
Great Western Society (Bristol)
589 Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol BS34 7RG. 'Bristol in the 60s and GWR 150 Specials' by Terry Nicholls. Starts 19.45. Visitors welcome. Contact the Secretary on 01454 324230 for further details.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (North London)
2 Stuart Crescent, Wood Green, London N22. 'History of the GNR Enfield - Cuffley Extension" by David Cockle. Meeting starts at 19.00. Contact the Secretary Tony Stratford at stratford_tony@hotmail.com.

SRPS (Lanarkshire)
Holy Trinity Church, Avon Street, Motherwell, ML1 3AA.
'Railway Photography - the Digital and Computer Impact' by Max Fowler. Meeting commences at 19.30. A donation is requested. Contact Fred Landery on 01698 457777 or at fred.landery@srps.org.uk for further details

9th March 2011
Oxfordshire Railway Society
Seacourt Day Centre, Seacourt Road, Oxford OX2 9LD.
'The Great Western Worker Safety Campaign 1913/39' by Mike Esbester. Starts 19.30.

Swiss Railways Society (London)
The Model Railway Club, Keen House, 4 Calshot Street, London N1 9AT.
'Gotthard part 3' by John Jesson. Meeting commences at 19.00. Donation of £2 requested. Contact the Secretary, Ron Dawes on 020 8660 3532 for further details.

10th March 2011
Bath Railway Society
Bath Green Park Station Meeting Room, Bath. 'London's New Railways' by Steve Bigley. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Kevin Plummer (evenings) on 01225 312564 for further details.

Continental Railway Circle
St Paul's Church Centre, Rossmore Road, Marylebone, London NW1 6NJ. 'Gujarat to the Ganges' by Geoff Todd. Meeting commences at 19.15. Admission £2. Contact Adrian Palmer on 01932 850624 or a akpalmer@talktalk.net for further details.

Great Central Railway Society (Rotherham)
The Three Horseshoes, Bawtry Road, Wickersley, Rotherham S66 2BW.
'Film Evening with Pie & Pea Supper'. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Mick Hayes on 01709 820544 for further details.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (St Albans)
United Reform Church, Watford Road, Chiswell Green, Nr St Albans. 'The History & Development of French Railways' by Mike Bunn. Meeting commences at 19.30. Donation of £2 required.

Back Issues

Are available on our website at **www.railwayherald.com**

Rear Cover Caption

In what really could be a 1960s scene of a parcels train awaiting departure, BR Standard 5MT No. 73129 simmers quietly during an evening photographic charter event at Bury Bolton Street on the East Lancashire Railway on 24th January.
Stuart Chapman

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PLATFORM
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