Railway Herald

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The weekly railway enthusiast's magazine

Railway Herald

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14th February 2011

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Richard Tuplin

Grand Central look to serve Mirfield from Bradford

Grand Central have put forward proposals to the Office of Rail Regulation that would see Pontefract dropped from its Bradford to London service, but include Mirfield as a new calling point. In addition the company wants its Sunderland service to call at Doncaster.

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Front Cover Caption:

Having spent several months under overhaul, SR 'Battle of Britain' Pacific No. 34067 *Tangmere* undertook a test run on 8th February around the Carnforth circle. Having stopped for water, *Tangmere* storms away from Hellifield, bound for Blackburn and Preston. Richard Tuplin

Birmingham to London in 90 minutes with new Chiltern timetable

Chiltern Railways has provided the final draft of its new timetable that marks the culmination of the main line element of the £250 million 'Evergreen 3' project.

The timetable sees the greatest change in Chiltern train operations for a decade, with the most important aspect being fast trains from Birmingham to London in 90 minutes. The faster journey times are made possible by a £250 million investment to upgrade the rail route from Moor Street station in Birmingham to Marylebone station in central London.

Two such services to London will run in the morning peak, and two return trains to Birmingham in the evenings, which will operate non-stop from Warwick Parkway. Typical journey time improvements of 20% will spread along the whole London to Birmingham route, and there will be much improved early and late trains, making it easier to reach London by 07.00, and also leaving London later in the evening.

There will also be additional capacity for commuters comprising 1,600 extra seats in the peak periods. This is the result of both new trains entering service and rolling stock efficiency delivered by the 'Evergreen 3' project. Times of trains at all stations will change – in many cases significantly.

The key benefits of the timetable are the journey time between Birmingham and London of 90 minutes and Warwick Parkway to London of 69 minutes on the fastest trains and new after midnight services on weekdays from London to Banbury, plus later services from London to the West Midlands.

In addition to the shorter journey times, several peak services on the Chiltern Mainline will use Mk3 trains offering a business focused travel experience, including comfortable wide seats, power sockets, plenty of table seats and Wi-fi.

Chiltern also takes operational responsibility for the Bicester Town to Oxford line from May.

First Capital Connect marks Royston service upgrade with naming

First Capital Connect (FCC) celebrated the introduction of extra seats to Royston's services on 4th February, when Class 365 Express Networker No. 365506 was named *The Royston Express* **in recognition of two new non-stop 12-car evening services that were created shortly before Christmas from King's Cross to Royston.**

At the same time, the northbound platform that has been extended to allow the longer trains to call there was formally opened. FCC Managing Director, Neal Lawson, welcomed town, district and county councillors to the ceremony, and said: "First Capital Connect is delighted to have 41 extra carriages that allow us to operate extra, faster services and new evening trains to Royston, half as long again as those we had run before, giving townspeople 2,350 more rush hour seats every day".

The longer trains were part of a wider set of improvements introduced through a scheme jointly developed by First Capital Connect and the Department for Transport with Network Rail. In May 2009, this added 20 carriages to the Great Northern route, which gave Royston over 1,500 more seats, mostly in the morning rush hour, while in December 2010, another 41 carriages were provided on the route.

▼ **North East Hertsfordshire MP, Oliver Heald, Royston Town Mayor, Cllr Martin Beaver, FCC Managing Director, Neal Lawson and Chairman of North Herts District Council, Cllr David Levett, stand beside FCC Class 365 No. 365506** *The Royston Express*, **at Royston on 4th February. First Capital Connect**

£300,000 programme to upgrade the Watford-St Albans line progresses

Electronic information screens and platform announcement equipment is being installed along the Abbey Line, between Watford Junction and St Albans, in the latest phase of a £300,00 investment programme.

Funded by rail operator London Midland, the scheme is part of the Quality Rail Partnership the company has with Hertfordshire County Council. The two organisations, together with the Abbey Line Community Rail Partnership, have already funded new waiting shelters, new signage, poster cases and improved accessibility along the line. St Albans Abbey station has been completely modernised, and work begins this year to improve facilities at the Watford end of the line. In addition to funding, the work of dedicated local volunteers through the Community Rail Partnership has been crucial in the development and continued success of the line. Work to install the customer information screens has already begun at Bricket Wood and Watford North stations and will continue over the next few weeks at Watford Junction, Garston, How Wood, Park Street and St Albans Abbey.

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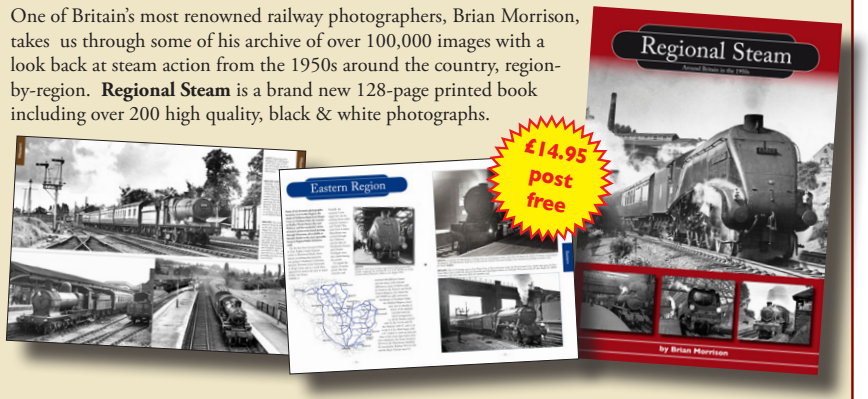

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Green light given for new platforms at Cambridge

Plans to transform services between Cambridge and London Liverpool Street cleared the final hurdle after Cambridge City Council granted permission for Network Rail's £16.7 million scheme to build a new island platform, complete with footbridge and lifts, at Cambridge station.

The decision means work on the scheme can start in April, with a scheduled completion in time for the December 2011 timetable change, which will see the introduction of 50% longer National Express East Anglia (NXEA) trains on commuter services between Cambridge and Liverpool Street.

The new platforms will make a difference to passengers, increasing capacity on the route, improving punctuality and reducing overcrowding. The improvements at Cambridge are part of a project that will see the station and surrounding area transformed over the coming years, with the new platforms being crucial to National Express East Anglia's plans to enhance train services and provide additional seats on the West Anglia route, partially through the introduction of new, longer trains. Today, services between Cambridge and the Capital are busy, and the existing track layout in and around the station is constrained, especially at peak times.

Adding two new 270 metre bi-directional platforms – numbered 7 and 8 – means trains can arrive and depart in either direction, freeing up vital capacity on the existing platforms and making sure the station can cater for additional rail services in the future.

A new covered footbridge and lifts will connect the new platforms to the rest of the station, making life easier for those who find the stairs a struggle. After consultation with local cycling groups, the staircases will include cycle guttering to help cycle users move around the station.

The work at the station is part of the project that will enable the West Anglia line between Cambridge and Liverpool Street capable of running 12-car trains by December this year.

Under the plan, platforms are also being extended at Cheshunt, Broxbourne, Sawbridgeworth, Stansted Mountfitchet and at Stansted Airport, where the work at the latter is being funded by British Airports Authority.

▼ **On 8th February, DRS Class 66/4 No. 66417 heads north through Chelmscote, on the West Coat Main Line, with the 10.53 Tilbury - Daventry 'Sugarliner' service. Lorenzo D'Aniello**

UK News In Brief

■ The Department for Transport has entered the Croxley Rail Link scheme into the 'Development Pool' group of projects, enabling the scheme to compete with other selected projects in the pool for funding. Hertfordshire County Council (HCC), London Underground and Network Rail will now progress towards obtaining powers to construct the scheme through the submission of a Transport and Works Act Order, and attention is being focused on compiling the 'Best and Final Funding Bid' to be submitted in September as part of the next stage in the funding process.

■ Network Rail engineers will be undertaking a rock stabilisation project on the line between Weymss Bay and Glasgow, during Sunday closures from 6th to 27th February, to repair a rock cutting damaged by December's severe weather. Stone on the cutting between Bishopton and Langbank has been loosened by the sub-zero temperatures and must be removed before it poses a risk to the safe operation of the railway.

■ The Peak District National Park Authority is to improve the Monsal Trail walk/cycleway between Bakewell and Wye Dale as part of a £2.25 million Pedal Peak District project. The work will open up new sections through the old rail tunnels. The new route is expected to be open by June this year. The former Midland route closed in 1968

■ According to the latest figures from the Office of Rail Regulation, the number of passengers using London Waterloo, which remains Britain's busiest station, dropped by 2% to 86,397,666 during the April 2009 - March 2010 period. Of the top 10, London Euston saw the biggest rise in passengers, with a 9% increase to just over 30 million.

Lighting the Royal Border Bridge at Berwick hits problems

The lighting of the Royal Border Bridge at Berwick in December hit problems from the start when a cable, dislodged by the vast amount of water from the heavy snowfalls, resulted in a third of the lights failing.

Unfortunately, those not switched on are the ones with the biggest impact, being over the river itself. The snow and high water levels around New Year have impacted on the repair timescales. Engineers and an architect of the Berwick History Society have now drawn up a range of alternative solutions to the problem and put these to the bridge owners, Network Rail, which has been very helpful and supportive. The preferred repair scheme is now awaiting NR approval for what is hoped will be an effective and permanent solution.

▲ Having replaced failed classmate No. 37038 earlier in the morning, Class 37/0 No. 37069 leads the Norwich - Southend test train up Belstead Bank with fellow Class 37/0 No. 37059 on the rear. **Jonathan Kirkham**

Book train tickets and car hire online with thetrainline.com

Online ticket retailer thetrainline.com has announced a new service that allows travellers to hire cars close to hundreds of British train stations via its website.

The new service has been developed with the needs of business and leisure travellers in mind, ensuring passengers can enjoy all the benefits of travelling by train, while catering for those who need a car at their destination. The move is a first within the industry, allowing people to combine the cost-effectiveness of train travel for the main part of their journey with the convenience of a car at their destination. A dedicated section of thetrainline website will allow users to enter their destination station and travel dates, following which, they will be presented with a range of vehicles for hire.

The new functionality, which is currently exclusive to the site, finds the nearest vehicles to the customer's destination station enabling convenient pick up. The cost and distance from the station are highlighted clearly on the booking page alongside images of each car, making it easy for customer to choose the right vehicle for their needs. Cars can also be picked up and dropped off at different stations, creating convenient and flexible options.

A Saturday shunt around Central Rivers

The Preserved Locomotive Enthusiast Group (PLEG) will again be running a charter at the Bombardier Central Rivers Depot, near Burton-upon-Trent on 11th June.

It is a charitable event, with proceeds going to the Macmillian Cancer Nightingale Ward at Derby Hospital, and will consist of a trip around part of the depot aboard a two-coach Voyager set hauled by Central Rivers' HNRC-owned Class 08 No. 08943. PLEG also says that there may be a surprise haulage opportunity on the day.

Due to the nature of the event, numbers will be restricted, and following the previous event, demand is likely to be high. Fares range from £10 for Standard Class to £15 for a First Class seat (and on-site parking) and are subject to advance booking, details of which can be obtained by visiting the website at http://www.pleg.org.uk/

Pay on the day may be available, but please check with PLEG website first for confirmation.

Station Improvements Round-Up

Work is to commence at Dagenham Dock, Rainham, Purfleet, Grays, Tilbury Town, East Tilbury, Stanford-le-Hope, Pitsea and Ockendon stations to extend platforms to handle 12-car trains. The work is due to be complete by the end of the year, with minimal disruption to train services and local residents.

Ticket Gates have been installed at London King's Cross and went live on Platforms 0 to 5 from 7th February. The move is a bid to improve security and prevent ticketless travel.

Cardiff Central is to have a new two-story southern entrance and ticket hall built, according to plans submitted by Network Rail as part of a £200 million redevelopment. The work is due to start in June 2014, in line with the Cardiff Area Resignalling Project, which is expected to be completed in mid-2015. A new platform will be constructed at Cardiff Central, and a disused platform at Cardiff Queen Street will also be reopened.

The construction of Buckshaw Parkway station, between Chorley and Leyland, is on target for opening later this year. The new two-platform station, constructed at a cost of £6.8 million, will be operated by Northern Rail and is expected to handle around 500,000 passengers a year.

Network Rail engineers will begin work this month on a £9 million project to create a fully-glazed roof covering all of the platforms and track at Paisley Gilmour Street station. The new 4,740sqm roof will be installed in sections over the next nine months without disruption to train services and with minimal disruption to the operation of the station. The scheme, which is scheduled for completion by Christmas, will involve the alteration of overhead power lines, while the platform buildings will also be repainted.

◀ **The new ticket barriers now installed at Kings Cross currently cover Platforms 0-5, but will be extended to the rest of the main line platforms over the coming months. The station's suburban platforms, Nos. 9-11, are already gated. Bill Turvill**

▲ **As previously reported, GBRailfreight has moved Class 73/2 No. 73209 *Alison* to Cardiff as a 'super shunter'. The loco is pictured shunting DB Schenker MBA wagons at the Celsa works on 11th February. The covered steel carrier is provided as a coupling adapter as the MBA wagons are fitted with buckeye couplers. Phil Trotter**

W&S Mk3s for Arriva's second Holyhead-Cardiff service?

Arriva Trains Wales (ATW) has said that rumours of the planned introduction of ex-Wrexham Shropshire & Marylebone Railway (WS&MR) stock onto its services are unfounded.

The company has told *Railway Herald* that there are no plans at the present time to use the ex-WS&MR Mk3s and Class 67s on the second Holyhead-Cardiff services, and discussions are still ongoing with the Welsh Assembly over a potential start date.

Elsewhere, industry sources have suggested that ATW is once again looking at the possibility of operating a through Aberystwyth to London Marylebone service, routed via Shrewsbury and Banbury, but using ex-WSMR Mk3 stock. However, the company remains noncommittal on the proposal, saying that there is no immediate plan to look at such a service again, but it would not rule it out in the future. The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) has confirmed that it is not at present, aware of any such service proposals.

With DB Regio having a stake in both Arriva Trains Wales and the WS&MR, the ability to redeploy its Mk3s would potentially make sense for both services. With the coaching stock being owned, and the locomotives being hired from another DB company, DB Schenker if Class 67s were to be used, the operational costs would be much reduced.

Arriva submitted proposals for a Class 158 operated Aberystwyth to London service in September 2009, but the ORR rejected these over concerns about the financial viability of such a new service. Wrexham & Shropshire also expressed a concern that it would be put out of business if such a service was developed. However, the playing field then changed from April last year when Deutsche Bahn agreed a £1.59 billion deal to purchase Arriva.

Metro and Light Rail News

■ Bond Street and Tottenham Court Road, two of the busiest stations on the London Underground network, are to be rebuilt as part of the Tube Upgrade Programme. Tottenham Court Road will be closed to Northern Line trains for eight months, although Central line services will continue to call.

■ Although having taken longer than expected because of some technical aspects, the extension of DLR from Canning Town to Stratford International should open in late spring.

■ More than two million journeys a week on National Network services in London are now made using Oyster 'pay as you go'. The latest figures show that the most popular journeys for Oyster users have been London Waterloo to Clapham Junction, Wimbledon, Putney and Richmond, and from London Victoria to Clapham Junction and East Croydon, with over 12,000 journey's a day being made on those routes. The highest switch from National Rail paper tickets to Oyster has been at suburban stations such as East Croydon, Watford Junction, Romford and Bromley South, where between 15,000 and 45,000 journeys are recorded each day using Oyster.

■ TfL has announced proposals to increase the number of services on Croydon Tramlink, by leasing up to 10 new trams to be used on a new service from Central Croydon to Elmers End. The invitation to bid closes on 21st February, and it is hoped that the trams can be delivered by the end of the summer. Given the tight timescales, this poses the query of whether the options are for new or existing build vehicles.

▼ **One of the new Bombardier Movia sets, known to London Underground as 'S' stock, with driving vehicle No. 21005 on the rear, stands at Baker Street on 28th January, while working a stopping service to Watford. Brian Creasey**

▲ **Recently based in South Wales and almost exclusively used on petroleum services, DB Schenker Class 60 No. 60074** *Teenage Spirit* **hauls the 05.50 Margam to Corby steel service on 9th February, as it traverses the 'Donnington branch' between Stenson Junction and Sheet Stores Junction. John Illingworth**

Grand Central hopes to serve Mirfield from Bradford and Doncaster from Sunderland

One of the two East Coast-open access operators has put proposals to the Office of Rail Regulation that would amend the calling patterns of both its West Riding and North East operations.

Grand Central's 'West Riding' service from London King's Cross to Bradford currently operates via Knottingley to call at Pontefract. However, the first of the applications shows the company's wish to operate direct from Wakefield Kirkgate to Doncaster, avoiding Pontefract. This would provide passengers with a significant reduction in journey time, although meaning that Pontefract would lose its direct service. Grand Central Managing Director, Tom Clift, commented that the re-routed service would be more attractive, with the expected additional passengers gained from the faster journey time significantly outnumbering those lost to the service from Pontefract. As part of the application, the company has also requested permission to add a new station call at Mirfield.

The second application relates to the 'North Eastern' service between King's Cross and Sunderland, which is currently fast to York. The ability to add a station call at Doncaster on this service, as requested in the application, would provide additional journey opportunities between York and Doncaster, while also providing operational flexibility by having both routes call at the station.

However, Tom Clift, has pointed out that these are simple proposals by the company at this stage, and could be rejected by the Office of Rail Regulation, or at a later stage by Network Rail, if the alternations cannot be accommodated operationally.

The move comes amid the recent outcry at the loss of the open-access Wrexham & Shropshire service, and certainly the approval of both applications by the ORR would benefit Grand Central, presenting a stronger business case on both routes.

The News In Pictures

◀ **DRS Class 37/6 No. 37601** *Class 37 Fifty* **working in multiple with DRS Class 20 No. 20309 passes Uttoxeter on a Barrow Hill to Crewe Gresty Bridge 'light engine' move. The two English Electric locomotives, both having been in service for over 45 years, pass Uttoxeter's No. 38 signal on 8th February.**
Richard Holmes

◀▼ **Having been permanently transferred from Transport for London to First Great Western, following the introduction of Class 172 'Turbostar' units, Class 150/1 No. 150121 has been repainted into FGW blue with red doors. The unit, the second ex-Silverlink set to be repainted, approaches Pilning with a service for Taunton on 9th February.** **Edward Gleed**

▼ **The Bluebell Railway's 4VEP No. 3417** *Gordon Pettitt* **was moved from East Grinstead to temporary storage at Branksome, near Bournemouth, on 7th February, to allow spoil trains removing rubbish from Imberhorne Cutting to recommence. Class 73/2s Nos. 73208** *Kirsten* **and 73213 (pictured) moved the unit in 'top and tail' formation, seen here at East Grinstead.**
Andrew Crampton

UK Steam & Modern Traction Railtour Listings

14th February 2011			
Steam Dreams	44932	London Victoria-Maidstone-Ashford-Dover-Folkestone-Ashford & return	
Steam Dreams	44932	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-Sheffield-Derby	
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	
25th February 2011			
Rail-Blue Charters	tbc	Watford Jct-Northampton-Carlisle-Watford & return	**Postponed**
26th February 2011			
Statesman Rail	tbc	Rugby-Birmingham Intl.-Crewe-Carlisle-Crianlarich-Rannock-Fort William	
Railway Touring Co.	44871 & 5690	Lancaster-Manchester Victoria-Hebdon Bridge-Barnsley-Sheffield-Hope Valley-Peak Forest-Buxton-Buxton-Stockport-Manchester Victoria-Preston-Lancaster	
A1 Steam Loco Trust	60163	London King's Cross-Wakefield Westgate-Leeds & return	Postponed
27th February 2011			
Statesman Rail	tbc	Fort William-Rannock-Crianlarich-Beattock-Carlisle-Oxenholme & return	
1st March 2011			
Steam Dreams	70013	London Victoria-Reading-Swindon-Bristol Parkway-Newport-Cardiff & return	
2nd March 2011			
Rail-Blue Charters	31454+31601	Lincoln-Nottingham-Langley Mill-Sheffield-Barnsley-S&C-Carlisle-Penrith-Shap-Lancaster-Manchester Victoria-Rochdale-Calder Valley-Barnsley & return	
4th March 2011			
Rail-Blue Charters	DBS Class 67	St.Albans-Kettering-Nuneaton-Telford Central-Craven Arms-Llandrindod Wells-Cardiff-Swindon-Reading-St. Albans-Kettering-Nuneaton	
Spitfire Railtours	55022	Preston-Crewe-Stafford-Lichfield Trent Valley-Nuneaton-Rugby-London Euston	

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

Spitfire Railtours opens its 2011 programme with a DRS multi-traction tour to head this week's charter offerings.

The 'Cumbrian Crusader IV' on 19th February starts the day at Birmingham International with a Class 57, for a run along ex-Midland metals, via Tamworth, Derby, Chesterfield and the 'Old Road' to Sheffield, where it gives way to a pair of Class 20s. With the 'Choppers' upfront, the train then heads for the Settle & Carlisle, which is reached by way of Moorthorpe, Normanton and Engine Shed Junction on the outskirts of Leeds. After a break at Carlisle, it then reverses and heads for Newcastle behind a Class 66/4, where the final reversal of the day takes place, ahead of heading back south via the East Coast Main Line to York and Sheffield with two Class 37s up front, which are also booked to work back to Birmingham International.

Hastings Diesel's DEMU is set to stray onto Midland metals on 19th February, when it works along the southern end of the Midland Main Line, which also includes a trip over the branch from Bedford to Bletchley for good measure. This is the re-dated 'Christmas Enigma' tour, which was cancelled in early December due to the horrendous weather. Now named 'The Winter Enigma', it follows the same booked route from Hastings as originally planned last December, picking up at the usual stations through to Tonbridge, Bromley South and Clapham Junction, setting down at St Albans and Bedford, before what is believed to be the first visit of a Hastings-gauge DEMU to the Bletchley branch. It is, of course, after the famous Bletchley Park wartime decoding centre that the train takes its name.

Statesman Rail opens its impressive 2011 programme with two 'Winter West Highland Statesman' land cruises to Fort William, operating over two days. On this coming Saturday the train originates at Derby and works north via Chesterfield, Sheffield and the S&C to Carlisle, then over Beattock to the West Highland Line. It returns the next day. On the following weekend, the tour originates this time from Rugby, and then heads through the West Midlands to Stafford and north along the WCML, before skirting Glasgow and onwards to the West Highland. Both tours are sold out, and bookings for 2012 are already being taken!

The only steam operation this coming weekend features Merchant Navy Pacific No. 35028 *Clan Line* on a VSOE British Pullman luncheon working around the Surrey Hills.

▼ **Class 90 No. 90041 speeds north through Rugeley Trent Valley on 8th February, with a private charter for delegates attending a conference in Liverpool. John Whitehouse**

Changes for RTCs 'Buxton Spa Express'

As last week, we start with changes to RTC's programme, which have been announced over recent days.

The most significant affects the 26th February 'Buxton Spa Express', the itinerary of which has effectively been reversed. The outward run now takes the direct route to Buxton, via Wigan North Western, Manchester Victoria, Stockport and Chapel-en-le-Frith, while the return works around the Pennines by way of Peak Forest, the Hope Valley, Sheffield, Brighouse and the Calder Valley, back to Manchester Victoria, to continue to Lancaster as outwards. Also the traction has changed slightly, as the double-headed section featuring 'Black 5' No. 44871 and 'Jubilee' No. 5690 *Leander* will now be from Manchester Victoria to Buxton, and then back to Manchester via Sheffield. *Leander* alone will cover the section between Lancaster and Manchester Victoria in each direction. Additionally, RTC's 'Sussex Belle' on 23rd February has been cancelled. This was one of three such trains booked to operate in a space of little more than six weeks.

The RTC schedule for June features significant 'Britannia' action commencing on 4th June with 'The Devonian' from Birmingham International, which offers No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* on a return working between Bristol Temple Meads and Plymouth, the loco then being booked for the 'Welshman' the following week, which is steam-hauled throughout from Poole, via Salisbury, to Bath and Cardiff. Minehead is the destination for 18th June, featuring classmate No. 70000 *Britannia* from Paddington, via the Berks & Hants, through to the West Somerset Railway's seaside terminus.

Two tours have been advertised for possible haulage by No. 6100 *Royal Scot*, but sensibly (as informed sources are not putting money on the 'Scot' being ready by then) RTC has nominated back-up traction. The 25th June 'Cumbrian Mountain Express' from Leicester, featuring steam in both directions from Crewe to Carlisle, outwards over Shap and returning via the S&C, has No. 70000 *Britannia* as the reserve, and the following week's 'Coast to Coast' from Liverpool Lime Street to Scarborough, via Standedge, has 'Princess Royal' Pacific No. 6201 *Princess Elizabeth* on standby.

Moving further into July and the high season, repeat itinerary trains commence, but not before three notable workings take place. Two trains operate on the weekend of 10th/11th July, commencing with 'A4' Pacific No. 60019 *Bittern* throughout on 'The White Rose' from King's Cross to York, followed next day with No. 5029 *Nunney Castle* from Bristol Temple Meads to Par and back, which also picks up at Plymouth and sets down at Bodmin Parkway. 'The Easterling' is now a regular feature of RTC's schedules, and is booked for 16th July with *Oliver Cromwell,* again from Liverpool Street to Norwich, onwards to Lowestoft and then back to London, via the East Suffolk line and Ipswich.

Britannia features in Steam Dreams summer programme

Steam Dreams looks to have won the race to have *Britannia* on its first public main line outing on 7th April, when it is booked to head the 'Cathedrals Express' from Oxford to Canterbury West, picking up at Reading, Slough, Kensington Olympia, West Brompton and Bromley South.

The 'double-booking' of the loco over the weekend of 23rd/24th April has also been resolved in Steam Dreams' favour, and it will be hauling the charter to Warwick and Stratford-upon-Avon from Paddington and Beaconsfield. Apparently, Steam Dreams spoke to the person with the diary, and RTC didn't!

Looking ahead, Steam Dreams depart from Paddington to Plymouth and Minehead on 2nd July. Not a natural itinerary you may think, and indeed it is not. The plan is to have the 'A1' Pacific No. 60163 *Tornado* at the business end from Paddington to Taunton, where a certain amount of swapping about will occur, before the loco continues via Norton Fitzwarren and Bishops Lydeard to the West Somerset Railway's Minehead terminus. Meanwhile, Stanier 8F 2-8-0 No. 48151 will take the remaining portion over the South Devon banks to Plymouth. Upon the return to Taunton, No. 48151 will leave the train and proceed, we believe, to Yeovil Junction, while *Tornado* continues east with the combined train back to London Paddington. This charter is part of a mini-season of trains featuring the Stanier 8F in the South East, which commences with a Fathers Day special from Aldershot, picking up at Camberley, Sunningdale, Twickenham, Clapham Junction and Bromley South to Canterbury West, and followed by two circular workings on Mid-Summer's Day, 21st June, with the luncheon train around Romney Marches, and an evening diner around the Surrey Hills.

One other notable change features Steam Dreams' 'Cathedrals Explorer' working, as it seems that NELPG's 'K1' No. 62005 will not be ready in time, and Bert Hitchen's 'Black 5' No. 45231 *Sherwood Forester* is now lined to work the Stirling to Fort William leg on 8th May paired with 'K4' Mogul No. 61994 *The Great Marquess*. The same duo will be used two-days later to return the train from Fort William to Coatbridge, where No. 70000 *Britannia* will be waiting to take over and head south.

▶ Having undertaken a test run around the Carnforth circle on 8th February, 'Battle of Britain' Pacific No. 34067 *Tangmere* did not move as booked to Southall on the 10th. Apparently unhappy with the locomotive, a further test run was undertaken, with Carnforth LMS 'Black 5' No. 44932 deputising for *Tangmere* on the Valentines trips around London on 12th and 14th February. Here, the Bulleid Pacific approaches Long Preston on its second test on 10th February. David Price

Ups & Downs

■ The use of Class 31s on main line charters seems to be on the increase, which will no doubt please quite a few people. Rail Blue Charters now has Nos. 31454 & 31601 booked for two March workings commencing with the 'Fenland Circular' on 2nd March from Lincoln to Carlisle via the Settle & Carlisle route outwards, returning over Shap and the Calder Valley. Later in the month, on 25th March, the same pairing is booked to head the charter for Whitby from Leicester, running via Sheffield and York. Rail Blue also confirms that the remaining three tours booked in March to the Central Wales Line from St Albans on 4th March, Carlisle via the S&C from King's Cross on 9th March and Inverness from Darlington on 11th March, will all be operated by DBS Class 67s.

■ Spitfire Railtours' early 2011 programme is now taking shape, with the announcement of 'The Welshman' from Preston to Tenby on 30th April, working outwards over the Central Wales Line, and returning along the Welsh Marches. Pick-up points include Bolton, Manchester Piccadilly, Stockport, Crewe, Nantwich, Whitchurch, Wem and Shrewsbury, and a pair of DRS Class 37s is the traction nominated.

■ An interesting item has appeared on the HF Railtours web page detailing its 24th May 'Merseyside Tornado' working from Liverpool South Parkway to London Euston and return, which picks up at Runcorn, Crewe, Stafford and Lichfield Trent Valley. The advertised traction is No. 60163 *Tornado*, but it also mentions that should the 'A1' be unavailable, then No. 70000 *Britannia* is being held in reserve. So, could this be the 'Merseyside Britannia'? This also poses the question of will *Tornado* be sidelined for even longer than originally anticipated? That could cause a few problems!

Railtour operators line-up replacement locos to cover for *Tornado*

Recent doubts have arisen concerning exactly how long No. 60163 *Tornado* will be out of action, with information surfacing that tour companies are arranging reserve traction in case the 'A1' is not available for their tours in May.

The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust say they are working to their previously publicised timescales, with a return to the main line as soon as possible, and advise that repairs at Meiningen are progressing well. At York the tender has been fully painted and is now on public display within the museum.

Railway Herald believes that one operator has already decided to eliminate any doubt, and book a replacement locomotive. As mentioned elsewhere, HF Railtours has No. 70000 *Britannia* lined up for its 24th May 'Merseyside Tornado', and it now also appears that No. 71000 *Duke of Gloucester* is similarly in the frame for three other trains in May, which were originally booked for *Tornado*, while updates concerning two other proposed tours are awaited.

Meanwhile, Steam Dreams has now confirmed to *Railway Herald* that LMS Stanier Pacific No. 6201 *Princess Elizabeth* will have charge of its 28th April 'Cathedrals Express' throughout between King's Cross and York. The original plan was for the 'Princess' to cover the northbound run, and use the southbound working as a positioning move for *Tornado*.

There is, quite naturally, a clamour for information concerning the extent of boiler repairs required, which will no doubt be made available at the appropriate time. The repairs are still at an early stage, and discussion of operations some three months away are always going to be subject to change. However, an informed source close to the Trust put things in perspective, telling *Railway Herald* that "writing off *Tornado* for all of May is a little premature at this point".

▼ **GWR 'Hall' 4-6-0 No. 4965 *Rood Ashton Hall* passes Portway, near Tamworth, hauling the 'St Valentine's Express' on 12th February. This Vintage Trains' charter travelled on a circular route around the East Midlands, having started at Tyseley Warwick Road. John Edkins**

Llangollen's extension could open in 2012

The Llangollen Railway is on the cusp of achieving a 30-year ambition to reconnect the line between Llangollen and the neighbouring market town of Corwen with the recent announcement by the Welsh Assembly Government that a £500,000 grant had been brought forward into the 2011-2012 financial year.

The grant will enable the railway to order materials and commence work on reopening the final 2.5 miles of the route from its current western terminus at Carrog to a new temporary station at Corwen. This is seen as a major enhancement to the tourist potential of the area in general, and Corwen in particular, as well as providing the railway with two significant locations at each end of their line, and a 2012 reopening is now very much on the cards.

Bringing forward the payment of the grant is due to the advance work by the Llangollen Railway Trust (LRT), which is the organisation dealing with the reconstruction of the Corwen extension, running ahead of schedule.

The budget for the total cost of building the Corwen extension as well as the temporary station is £1.1 million, and the LRT is appealing to the general public, local organisations and businesses to help fund a share of the cost.

Planning for the major event, which the reopening to Corwen will undoubtedly be, has already commenced, and tribute has also been paid to Denbigh County Council, which owns the trackbed, for its continued support of the scheme.

The trust are reported to be hoping to have a service operating to a temporary platform at Corwen by next spring, while further work on the permanent station in the town progresses.

Preservation News In Brief

■ The bridge near Minffordd that will carry the Ffestiniog Railway main line over the new Porthmadog by-pass was rolled into place on 7th February. After being assembled on site, it was slid into position by the use of massive steel supports and jacks. The next task will be ballasting and relaying the track, together with reconnecting signalling and telecommunication equipment ahead of the resumption of through services between Porthmadog (Harbour Station) and Blaenau Ffestiniog on 2nd March. One key feature is that the new bridge has been designed to provide room for extending the double track section to Minfford to allow longer trains.

■ The start of the year has been a busy time at Barry Rail Centre, with heritage railway projects continuing to move forward. The Centre has also welcomed a British-built Class 8F 2-8-0 No. 45166, which was shipped back to Bristol Docks from Turkey just after Christmas, where it will be stored awaiting restoration. The locomotive was shipped to Turkey during World War II to help with the war effort and has only now been repatriated with the permission of the Turkish authorities. Also this month Barry has taken delivery of a turntable from the Mid-Hants Railway, which the Cambrian intends to install at its main depot site in Barry.

▲ **One of the Douglas Horse Trams, with power supplied by *Charles*, heads along the Promenade on 31st July, bound for Derby Castle, where the horse trams terminate alongside the Manx Electric Railway. Richard Tuplin**

Could it be the end of the line for the horse trams in Douglas?

There is a fear that the Isle of Man's 3ft gauge Douglas Horse Tramway could be scrapped as part of a major revamp of the town and its two-mile-long promenade.

The world-famous tramway could be closed forever or moved to a different location as part of a public survey regarding the possible redevelopment of Douglas promenades, which has asked if it is time that the horse tram tracks were dug up and moved, or the historic service scrapped entirely.

The consultation, which was issued by the Island's Department of Infrastructure, covers the regeneration of Douglas seafront and the Douglas Horse Tramway features prominently in many of the proposed changes and developments. These include moving the tramway from its current position running double track in the centre of the road, to the seaward side of the road running as a single or double track system. The cost of replacing the horse tram lines is estimated at between £2.95 million and £4.4 million depending on whether a single or dual track would be used. The problems with the tramway cited in the consultation is that passengers have to cross road traffic to board or alight, as the trams are not segregated from the highway. In addition, they frequently cause delays and slow moving traffic, especially during peak periods.

Island Infrastructure Minister, Phil Gawne, said: "The Department of Infrastructure has recognised for some time that the promenade carriageways require reconstruction to replace worn out sections. Indeed the newest section, Loch Promenade, was constructed 76 years ago, with the other promenades dating back to the second half of the 19th century".

Douglas Horse Tramway is currently being subsidised by Douglas Council, but during the 2009-2010 season income from the horse trams was £95,680 resulting in a overall loss of £230,775.

The first section of the Douglas Horse Tramway was originally opened on 7th August 876 by Thomas Lightfoot, a retired Sheffield civil engineer. The only similar system worldwide exists in South Australia. However, there are many enthusiasts who would like to see a modern transport system along this route, by extending the 3ft gauge Manx Electric Railway all the way along the Douglas promenade, an idea that was first mooted in 1900.

▲ The LSWR 'Terrier' No. 8 *Freshwater* is pictured with some of the railway's vintage coaches on a special working for the railway's AGM on 22nd May last year. **IoWSR**

Lottery win for Isle of Wight line

A project to ensure the long-term preservation and display of the Isle of Wight Steam Railway's collection of locomotives, carriages and other rolling stock has been given the green light from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), with the railway being awarded a £35,000 development grant to progress the plans for its 'Changing Trains' Project.

This first-round 'pass' means that it can now progress to the second stage of the HLF application process and has up to two years to submit more detailed plans and apply for a full grant of £929,600 for the project. 'Changing Trains' aims to ensure that all locomotives, Victorian and Edwardian carriages, and other heritage rolling stock, is kept under cover when not in service, away from the harmful effects of sun, wind and rain, and in so doing are placed on display to the public.

The project focuses on providing a Rolling Stock Storage and Display Building adjacent to Havenstreet station, which will provide covered space for most of the Railway's restored locomotives, carriages and wagons, including items scheduled for completion during the next 10 years under the HLF-assisted Carriage & Wagon restoration programme.

In total the project will cost £1.1 million, and to meet part of the criteria for securing HLF funding the Railway has already raised £140,000 of 'match-funding'. This has been raised through the generosity of IW Steam Railway members and supporters across the country and through donations from visitors to the Railway.

The project is the line's largest since the three-mile-long extension to Smallbrook Junction was opened in 1991, and will be a major boost in preserving its historic vehicles. This year marks the Railway's 40th anniversary, having been established at Havenstreet in 1971.

Railway Age and Freightliner hold joint Charity event

The Railway Age at Crewe, will be staging an open weekend on 12th & 13th March in partnership with Freightliner UK.

It is a charity event, with all proceeds going to the Crewe-based Emmie Dixon Home, a residential establishment that provides a permanent home for 12 people with physical or learning disabilities.

One of the highlights of the event will be the opportunity to visit Freightliner's extensive Basford Hall complex, tickets for which will be available only on a 'pay on the day' basis from within the heritage centre. Numbers are limited to 30 people per trip, and it is understood that there will be between four and five trips on each day. Access to Basford Hall will be by a special bus shuttle from the heritage centre.

There will be a wide range of locomotives on display at the centre itself, including a selection of Freightliner locomotives, including a representative from the new Class 70 fleet. Other attractions will consist of brake van rides behind a Class 03 diesel shunter, several model railway layouts, access to three signal boxes, and trade and charity stands. Steam locomotives likely to be on display include Nos. 6100 *Royal Scot*, 61994 *The Great Marquess*, 70000 *Britannia* and 92203 *Black Prince*, together with representatives of BR Classes 37, 47 and 87, and the resident Class 370 APT.

The event takes place between 10.00 and 16.30 each day, and costs £5 for adults, children (5-16 years) £2, Seniors (60 years or over) £3 and a family ticket £10. There is an additional fee of £5 for the visit to Basford Hall Depot.

▼ On a visit from its usual base at Wolverton Works, Class 08 No. 08629 is towed away from the unloading siding by Class 20 No. D8098 at Quorn and Woodhouse, on the Great Central Railway, on 11th February. **Frank Lees**

GCR bid for £2.5 million to 'close the gap'

A bid for £2.5 million from the new Government Regional Growth Fund has been made by the Great Central Railway Development Company, which, if successful would enable construction work to begin to reunify the two operational sections of the Great Central Railway main line.

As well as stimulating growth in regional rail freight and passenger traffic, the reunified 18-mile line would enable the Great Central Railway to expand its existing tourist, rail freight and rail industry trials/testing business, creating almost 200 new jobs and attracting an estimated 60,000 new visitors every year.

Reinstating the 500 metres of missing railway at Loughborough would create an unbroken 18-mile independent main line for the East Midlands. The eight-mile-long Loughborough Central to Leicester North section would be connected to the nine-mile section between Loughborough Junction and Ruddington.

A unified GCR could become a magnet for rail excursions from all points of the GB compass. Railtour operator Steam Dreams envisages not only visits by its day excursions from all over the South East, but also the overnight staging of its multi-day tours, several times a year, requiring 350 hotel rooms each time.

An 18-mile line would also provide much better facilities to test machines, trial rolling stock and to teach staff, and would be close to the Brush works and railway companies based around Derby. The new facility would also enable despatch by rail of increased stone traffic from the Lafarge Quarry at Mountsorrel and would strengthen the GCR's existing partnership with the National Railway Museum.

Tanfield commences 40th anniversary year

The Tanfield Railway is starting its 40th anniversary celebrations with a weekend-long freight festival featuring the visiting 140-year-old vertical boilered 'Coffeepot' Betchworth No. 1 and Tanfield's first ever ride on freights on 19th and 20th February.

The 'Coffeepot' will be the star guest in a five locomotive line up for the new 'On the Waggon' event, part of the County Durham line's celebration of 40 years of preservation. The Teesside-built locomotive, visiting from Beamish Museum, will be on demonstration shunting duties at Marley Hill with some of the Tanfield's unique collection of vintage wagons, providing plenty of unusual photographic opportunities. Also visiting will be the unique former Harton Railway brake van No. A18, providing passenger accommodation on several freight trains.

Demonstration coal trains will be running throughout the day alongside the usual passenger services using vintage carriages.

Four resident steam locomotives will run during the weekend; Robert Stephenson & Hawthorns built 0-4-0ST *Sir Cecil A. Cochrane*, National Coal Board 0-6-0ST No. 49, Hudswell Clarke 0-6-0ST *Renishaw Ironworks No. 6*, and unique Robert Stephenson 0-6-0T No. 3 *Twizell*, built in 1891 and on long-term loan from Beamish Museum.

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▲ GWR 2800 Class 2-8-0 No. 3850 heads away from Rabbit Bridge on the Great Central Railway with a rake of mineral wagons during a Steam Recreations photographic charter on 7th February. **Stuart Chapman**

▼ During a Russ Hillier arranged photo charter at the GCR three days later, Collett 1400 Class No. 1450 and Autocoach No. 178 approach Swithland Sidings, passing the restored wagons on the Mountsorrell branch. **Fred Kerr**

Following its initial spell working in South Wales, DB Schenker Class 60 No. 60011 has been a regular on construction traffic in the Peak Forest area, and on 8th February, descends past Brierlow Bar with a Briggs Sidings (Hindlow) - Tunstead working. **Paul Armitage**

To allow passage of a Nottingham-Cardiff CrossCountry service, Colas Rail Class 47/7 No. 47727 *Rebecca* is looped at Northway, Gloucestershire, on 8th February, while heading for Eastleigh with a rake of ex-Motorail vehicles, from store at Long Marston. **John Stretton**

The 15.06 shuttle to Henley-on-Thames awaits departure from the bay platform at Twyford on 8th February, formed of Class 165/1 Turbo No. 165122. **Brian Morrison**

Triple grey-liveried Class 73/1 No. 73107 *Redhill 1894-1994* **leads a Selhurst to Woking test train through Wandsworth Town on 8th February, with Network Rail yellow-liveried classmate No. 73138 on the rear. Steve Madden**

On hire from DRS to Freightliner, Class 66/4 No. 66422 passes Albany Park on the Dartford Loop on 9th February, hauling the 07.22 intermodal service from Crewe to Thamesport, Isle of Grain. **Bill Turvill**

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.

Stafford Rly Society

St Leonards Social Club, St Leonards Avenue, Stafford. 'The Percy Mosley Collection - Part 3' by Robert Mathams. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Mick Horton on 01785 840622 for further 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.

Abergavenny & District Steam Society

Upper Room, 'The Hen & Chickins', Flannel Street, Abergavenny. 'Around North Wales' & 'Four Ways to Brecon' by Michael Clemens. Meeting starts 20.00. Contact Ken Mumford on 01873 855773 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. Starts 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 Rly 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. £2 Donation. Contact 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. £1 donation. Contact Duncan Wilson at duncanwilson1955@hotmail.com.

Locomotive Club of Gt Britain (St Albans)

United Reform Church, Watford Road, Chiswell Green, Nr St Albans. '38 Years on Railways in North London & Hertfordshire' by David Cockle. £2 Donation. Starts 19.30.

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. £3 Donation. Contact 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. BR Engine Sheds – Part 6 by Chris Banks. Starts 20.00, Admission £3. Contact Publicity Member on 01522-705365.

Severn Valley Railway (Wolverhampton)

Old Wulfrunians Club, 253A Castlecroft Road, Wolverhampton WV3 8NA. 'All the Colours of the Rainbow' by Dave Walker. Starts 19.30. Admission £2.50. Contact Alan Davies on 01902 758882 for details.

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.

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

GW Society (Sth 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 Hotel 26 College Road, Spinkhill, S21 3YB. 'Steam Galas in 2010 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. Starts 19.30. £2 Admission.

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.

▼ **Freightliner Class 70 No. 70008 heads south with a Coatbridge to Crewe Basford Hall intermodal service as it approaches Holytown on 7th February, after its first visit to Scotland. Kenny Marrs**

NYMR (York Area)
New Earswick Sports & Social Club, White Rose Avenue, York YO32 4AG. 'A Visit to the Southern Hemisphere' by S. Dew and R. Schofield. Starts 19.30. Contact B. Blundell on 01904 764648 for further details.

Stafford Railway Society
St Leonards Social Club, St Leonards Avenue, Stafford. 'Out and About' by Hugh Gould. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Mick Horton on 01785 840622 for further 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.

Scarborough Rly Society
Scarborough Library, Vernon Road, Scarborough. 'DVD Presentation' by Paul Wilson. Starts 19.45

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

26th February 2011
Bournemouth Rly Club
Winton Community Centre, Junction Alma Road & Heron Court Road, Winton, Bournemouth BH9 1DE./ 'Built by Bulleid - Part 1" by Club Members. Starts 19.30. £2 donation. Contact M. Thresh on 01202 742099.

Warwickshire Rly Society
Joint Stock, Lower Temple Street, Birmingham City Centre. 'AGM & Film Extravaganza'. Starts 13.45. Contact 01746 710676 for details.

1st March 2011
Gravesend Railway Enthusiasts Society
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Windmill Street, Gravesend DA12 1BB. 'Welsh Highland Railway' by Ian King. Starts 19.45. Contact 01474 326232 for details.

Locomotive & Carriage Institution
55 Broadway, London. 'Travels by Train Through Europe' by Mark Smith. Starts 18.00. Contact smithstuart@btinternet.com for 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 Lionel Jones on 01934 628289 for further details.

3rd March 2011
Great Central Railway Society (Sheffield)
The Harlequin, 108 Nursery Street, Sheffield S3 8GG. 'The Joint Railways of South Yorkshire' by Bob Gellatly. Starts 19.30. Contact Ken Grainger on 01142 540275 for further details.

RCTS (Milton Keynes)
The Crown, Market Square, Stony Stratford MK11 1BE. 'Strictly Freight Only, Part 2' by Brian Ringer. Meeting commences at 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.Contact Dr Peter Howell on 0131 334 5232 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. Starts 19.30. Admission £1.50. Contact Ian McInnes on 01642 767233.

8th March 2011
8E Railway Association
The Gladstone Club, Station Road, Northwich, CW9 5RB. 'Life with Railways' by Wayne J. Jones. Starts 19.45. Contact 07790 486735 .

Abergavenny & District Steam Society
Upper Room, 'The Hen & Chickins', Flannel Street, Abergavenny. 'Earthquakes and Trains' by Arthur Robinson. Meeting commences at 20.00. Contact Ken Mumford on 01873 855773.

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 01454 324230 for details.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (North London)
2 Stuart Crescent, Wood Green, London N22. 'GNR Enfield - Cuffley Extension" by David Cockle. Starts 19.00. Contact 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. Starts 19.30. Donation requested. Contact Fred Landery on 01698 457777 for further details

9th March 2011
Oxfordshire Rly 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. Starts 19.00. £2 Donation. Contact 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. Starts 19.30. Contact Kevin Plummer (evenings) on 01225 312564.

Continental Rly 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 for details.

GCR Society (Rotherham)
The Three Horseshoes, Bawtry Road, Wickersley, Rotherham S66 2BW. 'Film Evening with Pie & Pea Supper'. Starts 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. Starts 19.30. £2 Donation.

11th March 2011
Altrincham Electric Rly Preservation Society
Altrincham Methodist Church Hall, Barington Road, Altrincham, Cheshire WA1 1HF. 'Steam Around Chester from the 1960s Onwards' by John Field. Starts 19.30. Admission £3. Contact Andrew Macfarlane on 0161 928 9394 for further details.

GW Society (Swindon)
Lawn Community Centre, Guildford Avenue, Law, Swindon SN3 1JE. 'British Steam - Home & Abroad' by Terry Nicholls. Starts 19.30. Visitors welcome. Contact the Secretary on 01793 495976 for further details.

Shropshire Rly Society
The Gateway, Chester Street, Shrewsbury. 'All Southern in Black and White' by Doug Capewell. Starts 19.30. £3 Donation. Contact 01743 243295 for further details

12th March 2011
Bournemouth Rly Club
Winton Methodist Community Centre, All Purpose Room, Junction Alma Road & Heron Court Road, Winton, Bournemouth BH9 1DE 'Bulleid's Pacifics' by Colin Boocock. Starts 14.30. £2 donation. Contact Martyn Thresh on 01202 742099.

14th March 2011
Lincoln Railway Society
St Hugh's Church Hall, Harewood Crescent, North Hykeham, Lincoln LN6 8JG. 'Railways in the East Midlands(1948-1980)' by David Ford Starts 20.00. Entrance £3. Contact Publicity Member on 01522-705365.

Severn Valley Railway (Wolverhampton)
Old Wulfrunians Club, 253A Castlecroft Road, Wolverhampton WV3 8NA. 'History of the LNWR' by Ted Talbot. Starts 19.30. Admission £2.50. Contact Alan Davies on 01902 758882.

Back Issues

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Rear Cover Caption

In ex-works condition, Class 20 No. 20107 stands on the turntable at Barrow Hill, surrounded by classmates Nos. 20096 and 20142, on 5th February, during an East Midlands Railway Photographic Society evening photo charter. Simon Kerry

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