Railway Herald

Issue 260 - 21st March 2011

The weekly railway enthusiast's magazine

Railway Herald

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21st March 2011

Editor
Richard Tuplin

Contributing Editor
Brian Morrison

Railtour Editor
John Whitehouse

Advertising Manager
Ken Brunt

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New DMUs delivered to Northern Ireland Railways

The first of a new fleet of 20 three-car DMUs built by Spanish manufactuer CAF was offloaded at Belfast Docks on 14th March, marking the next phase in a major upgrade of the Northern Ireland rail network.

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London Midland's new Class 172/3 No. 172332 passes Henley-in-Arden on 17th March, with a mileage accumulation run from Tyseley to Stratford-upon-Avon. Peter Tandy

National Express launches Class 379s on Stansted Express service

Transport Secretary, Philip Hammond, officially introduced the first of a new fleet of 30 Bombardier-built Class 379 'Electrostar' EMUs into service on 17th March.

The new units will run on National Express East Anglia (NXEA) services from London to Stansted Airport and Cambridge and represent the first new trains that form part of the 2,100 extra carriages the Government is introducing to the rail network by 2019. The displaced Class 317 EMUs are being cascaded onto other West Anglia services, operated by NXEA. Full delivery of the Class 379s is expected for the December timetable change this year.

◀ The special train to formally introduce the Class 379s into service arrives at a red carpeted Platform 10 at Liverpool Street on 17th March, formed of units Nos. 379005 & 379006. The bowler-hatted hostess with the 'Stansted Express' board was one of four who welcomed travellers onboard. **Brian Morrison**

▼◀ The Minister of State for Transport, the Rt. Hon. Philip Hammond MP, unveils the nameplate on Class 379 Electrostar No. 379005 at Liverpool Street on 17th March. **Brian Morrison**

▼ Class 379 No. 379005 stands at Stansted Airport shortly after arrival from Liverpool Street on 8th March. This was the first operation of a pair of Class 379s in public service, the other set being No. 379006. The duo returned on the 21.15 service to London. **Andrew Moore**

First of new 20 Class 4000 DMUs delivered to Northern Ireland

The first of a new fleet of 20 three-car DMUs was offloaded at Belfast Docks on 14th March, marking the next phase in a major upgrade of the Northern Ireland rail network.

The Class 4000 units represent an investment of £114 million and have been built by CAF in Spain. It is intended that they will replace older fleets currently in service and operate alongside the existing 23 Class 3000 sets that were delivered to NI Railways in 2004-2005.

Northern Ireland Railways has seen a growth of over 60% in passenger figures since 2002, and the new trains will help to improve the quality of service provided. The Class 4000s include new multi-purpose areas on board to accommodate parents with buggies or extra bicycles, and have the latest environmental features giving better fuel efficiency and reduced carbon emissions. Following delivery, each of the 20 sets will undergo a series of static and on-track testing, part of which requires each unit to complete 2,000 miles of incident-free running before acceptance.

Alongside the introduction of the new trains, known as C4k units, a series of platform extensions are taking place at 19 stations across the network, along with new maintenance facilities in the former Adelaide Freight Yard in Belfast, as existing workshops at York Road and Fortwilliam are operating at full capacity. The new depot will include engineering and maintenance facilities, stabling, fuelling and a train washing plant.

▼ One of the driving cars for the first of the new CAF-built Class 4000 DMUs is offloaded from the ship in Belfast Docks on 14th March. **Chris Playfair**

▲ DRS Class 37/6 No. 37607 leads Class 20/3 No. 20303 northwards through Spetchley, while working a Berkeley to Crewe flask train on 14th March. **Stephen Tucker**

Manchester to Liverpool electrification work progresses

Since the announcement by the Department for Transport last year, Network Rail has been pressing ahead with 'behind the scenes' work to electrify the line between Manchester and Liverpool.

A detailed study of every structure along the route has been undertaken to work out what needs to be done to accommodate the 25kV overhead cables that have to be installed. Jo Kaye, Network Rail's Route Director, explained: "We have looked at all the tunnels and road and pedestrian bridges along the entire route, many of which are up to 150 years old. Some will need work to be carried out on them before the overhead power lines can be put in place. Having done all the background work we are now at the stage where we are ready to start on the ground".

Two road bridges and one pedestrian bridge over the railway between Eccles and Patricroft stations are to be demolished and rebuilt. The one at Albert Street closed on 15th March for up to 20 weeks, and a signed diversionary route is in place. During the closures, pedestrian access over the bridge will be maintained for the majority of the work period. At the same time, the bridge in Old Wellington Road will be restricted to single lane traffic, again for up to 20 weeks, but there will be three consecutive weekends in June when both bridges will have to be closed to both vehicles and pedestrians. The footbridge at Chadwick will be completely closed from mid-May until the end of June and an alternative pedestrian route will be provided.

In total, there are 90 structures on the route, 46 of which do not need any attention. This is either because there is already sufficient headroom or because the cables can be installed in such a way as to not need any work. However 44 will need some attention. In some instances, this will mean the bridge can simply be raised up, others will have to be rebuilt, and in other locations the track can be lowered, leaving the bridge unaffected. Some bridges will only require work to the parapets. There is also one short tunnel on the line between Patricroft and Newton-le-Willows through which the track will be lowered.

As well as looking at the various structures, Network Rail has also been looking at the effect the work will have on the signalling along the line, particularly where bridges are rebuilt or the track is lowered. This is to avoid signals being obscured from the driver's view.

UK News In Brief

■ TfL estimates that it lost £75 million to fare evasion last year, £20 million of which was on the Tube. To tackle the problem TfL will be deploying plain clothes ticket inspectors to carry out an increased number of operations across the entire transport network. Anyone suspected of deliberately avoiding paying the correct fare may be prosecuted.

■ The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) has confirmed that it will not proceed with the prosecution of Jarvis Rail Limited over the Potters Bar derailment, after concluding that, while there remains sufficient evidence to provide a realistic prospect of conviction of Jarvis, a prosecution would no longer be in the public interest. A number of factors have been taken into account in the decision, including the changed nature of any future trial as Jarvis's administrator's have advised that they would take no part in any proceedings, in addition members of the victims' families expressed the view that there was little value in continuing the prosecution.

■ Virgin Trains is working with Bolton Wanderers, Stoke City, Manchester City and Manchester United, the football clubs that are involved in the FA Cup semi finals over the weekend of 16th/17th April to ensure thousands of supporters can travel to and from London. VT has already confirmed it is running five charter trains. Those not travelling by charter services will still be able to travel by service train to both matches and extra trains are planned from Euston after the matches on Saturday and Sunday. However, with each Class 390 capable of carrying a maximum of 439 seated passengers, but with a crowd of around 80,000 expected for both matches, supporters are being encouraged to make use of charter services organised through their respective clubs!

■ GB Railfreight has commissioned Electro Motive Diesel to fit a further 10 of its Class 66s with air con units. A initial trial was carried out in August 2009, and GBRf say that depending on the outcome of this second trial, it may look at fitting the other locomotives. The units provide powerful cooling and reduce the cab humidity by removing moisture from the air and maintaining the cab temperature to a comfortable level of 21°c, which can be set or adjusted by the drivers to ensure they have a suitably cool environment to work in on hot days. The system has been specifically designed to fit the constraints of both variants of the Class 66 cab, with parts of the installation in each cab and other parts mounted on the underframe. Features of the unit include a variable temperature setting and adjustable louvres that allow the cooled air to be directed at both the driver and second man's positions.

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Metro and Light Rail News

Four-day closure for Midland Metro maintenance project

The Midland Metro will be partially closed for four days in April to allow for the completion of a £400,000 maintenance project.

The line between Wolverhampton St George's and Wednesbury Parkway will be affected by the closure between 17th - 20th April inclusive. Trams will continue to operate as normal between Wednesbury Parkway and Birmingham Snow Hill. The work is to enhance the service and maintain the tram system's 99% reliability. It is the continuation of a project begun last October by Centro and operator Travel Midland Metro, where similar work was undertaken between Birmingham Snow Hill and Wednesbury Great Western Street. It will involve enhancement work to the overhead cables, which will give them a life span of up to 30 years, and require less maintenance than the existing lines installed more than a decade ago. Passengers travelling to destinations between Wolverhampton St George's and Wednesbury Parkway will be able to use Midland Metro tickets and passes on the National Express West Midlands (NXWM) 79 and 126 bus services during the closure period. However, Metro and Metro/bus tickets are not valid on the rail network.

In a separate project, CCTV and the communications system used on the Metro network is receiving a £500,000 upgrade, which will come into operation in early April. This includes providing passengers with an improved information announcement and display system and enhanced help points at stops including Braille lettering for the blind and visually impaired. It will also update the CCTV control systems along the line and improve passenger information points.

Bombardier building more trains each week than ever before

Bombardier's Litchurch Lane Works at Derby is currently manufacturing more trains per week than has ever previously been produced in the history of this site, as by the end of this month, over 100 vehicles will have been produced there.

If all these vehicles were placed nose to tail the trains would cover a distance of 2 kilometers. The Derby site is currently producing trains for Transport for London's Underground system, MOVIA metro cars for the Victoria and SubSurface Lines, Class 379 Electrostars for NXEA and Class 172 Turbostars for Chiltern and London Midland.

Although production is currently at a peak, all but the SubSurface Lines contract will be complete by the end of this year, so the company is seeking to secure additional work for the site.

▲ Examples of TfL Class 378/2, and London Underground 'S' and 2009 Stock. Bombardier

JOIN OUR SCENIC TRAIN EXCURSION TO HEARTBEAT LAND!

FRIDAY 25TH MARCH – from your local station to WHITBY

Travel to the coastal town of Whitby and get lost in the labyrinth of lanes and streets.

PICK UP STATIONS are **LEICESTER** (depart 06.32, return 00.24), **EAST MIDLANDS PARKWAY** (depart 06.55, return 23.56), **LANGLEY MILL** (depart 07.16, return 23.36), **ALFRETON** (depart 07.28, return 23.25), **CHESTERFIELD** (depart 07.56, return 23.10), **SHEFFIELD** (depart 08.27, return 22.50), **WOMBWELL** (depart 08.48, return 22.22) and **BARNSLEY** (depart 08.59, return 22.10). All timings are confirmed.

This day excursion is by direct train with spacious and comfortable 'Inter-City' carriages with pre-booked seats for all passengers. Standard, First and Premier Dining fares are offered.

Pay on the day option available

Why not indulge yourself with Premier Dining and enjoy our luxurious Great British Breakfast and a 4-course Evening Dinner. All food is silver serviced by our stewards.

OUR SCENIC JOURNEY: We run across the heart of Yorkshire, joining the East Coast Mainline via York and gliding adjacent to the North Yorkshire Moors in our east. We then run through the communities of Cleveland to Middlesborough, start point of the scenic Esk Valley Railway. The train heads for the North Yorkshire Moors via pretty villages with a reversal at the former railway junction at Battersby. Beyond here we pass the like of Castleton Moor and Glaisdale before reaching Grosmont, and Whitby via the Esk estuary. We return by the same route.

WHITBY: We arrive at 13.35 and depart at 18.00, giving break of over four hours at Whitby, famous for fish and chips and association with Captain Cook and Bram Stoker's Dracula first published in 1897. Whitby Abbey, St Mary's Parish Church and the picturesque 'old town' lie on the East Side. The cobbled Church Street leads you to the foot of the famous 199 steps leading from the town to St Mary's Church and the Abbey Headland!

TICKETS: Premier Dining £159, First Class £89 and Standard Class £58. Tables for 2 are available at £15 per person in First and Premier Dining. All seating is subject to availability. Discounts are offered to juniors or groups of 4 adults, please call our booking office. A buffet service is available to purchase hot and cold snacks and drinks and soft and alcoholic drinks. Terms and conditions apply, ask for details.

TO BOOK and INFO: www.rail-bluecharters.co.uk/tour_list
or 0161 850 0559 or bookings@rail-bluecharters.co.uk

▲ **London Midland has now taken delivery of the first two of its new Class 172/3 'Turbostar' three-car sets. This variant of the '172s' being the first of the type to be constructed with a cab-end corridor connection, giving a similar front-end shape as the Class 379s. Nos. 172331 and 172332 are both based at Tyseley, and the latter unit is pictured at Stratford-upon-Avon on 15th March, while on mileage accumulation workings. Peter Tandy**

ScotRail opens extended Shields Road depot facilities

ScotRail's expanded Shields Road maintenance depot in Glasgow has been officially opened.

The £24 million investment funded by Transport Scotland for a purpose-built maintenance and overhaul facility will look after the eventual 38-strong fleet of new Class 380 EMUs, as well as some of the existing units. The depot expansion announced in April 2009 includes state-of-the art equipment and was constructed to minimise environmental impact and maximize energy efficiency with innovative lighting and building materials.

The facility will also play an important part in maintaining the £430 million investment of new trains, which will benefit rail passengers across the west of Scotland and add 7,500 seats to the Scottish network.

The building's green credentials include a 20-30% saving in lighting running costs, with the main shed on a dimmable system which reduces the power to the lights as the daylight increases, so reducing energy costs. In addition, all office lights are high efficiency and controlled by Passive InfraRed sensors enabling the lighting to be switched off when the rooms are unoccupied. The shed heating is temperature controlled, with high velocity air handling from the roof space, which ensures that hot air collecting in the roof (including that generated by trains in the shed) is directed back to ground level where the heating is most appreciated.

Police urge vigilance over credit card fraud

Police have warned rail passengers to be vigilant following the uncovering of a new scam by an international fraud gang.

The scam involves copying credit card details using skimming devices attached to station ticket machines. One such credit card, which is suspected to have been skimmed in London, has been used in a successful fraud in Hong Kong. Officers in the capital are liaising with Hong Kong police to target the perpetrators. The scam is undertaken by fraudsters using a fake cover to the card entry section of the ticket machine, which contains an electronic device that is able to read the card details. The procedure is more advanced than the previous way that trapped the customer's card.

The Dedicated Cheque and Plastic Crime Unit, which consists of City of London police officers and card payment industry investigators, is leading an inquiry into the problem. Police say that the card details can be reproduced on blank cards that can be used abroad with no chip and PIN protection. Detectives are also concerned that the fraudsters may have used hidden cameras or 'shoulder surfers' to capture PINs. This could allow them to use the card details more widely.

So far, there is no evidence that large numbers of people have fallen victim to the scam, but police say it may take time for frauds to become apparent. Their advice is to be aware of those around you when using ticket machines, if somebody close-by is behaving suspiciously use a different machine, if there is something unusual about the ticket machine, alert the station staff or the police. Both police and the card issuing companies are urging people to also use their free hand to shield the keypad when entering the PIN.

Punctuality levels reach record high of over 92% on average

Train punctuality for February this year reached a record high of over 92%, the best February figure on record.

The latest performance results report that 92.4% of trains arrived on time compared with 91.8% for the same period last year. Ten of the 19 operators had their performance improve compared to the same period last year. The most punctual operator during the period was c2c with 96.5% of trains on time, well above its annual average of 94.8%, although down slightly on the 97.9% figure from 12 months ago.

The worst performing TOC was East Coast with 82.5% of trains on time and over 4% down on the same period last year. All other operators in the country achieved a minimum of 90% punctuality.

ScotRail introduces Dunrobin Castle request stops ahead of summer

Request stops at Dunrobin Castle station are being introduced on service trains by ScotRail two months earlier than in previous years.

The stops on selected services at the station on the Inverness-Thurso-Wick route will begin on Saturday 26th March to coincide with the start of the Castle's opening season.

To support the move, a reduced entrance fee is being offered to rail ticket holders, saving more than 16% on the usual adult admission with the normal adult fee of £9 falling to £7.50 and seniors paying £6.50 instead of £7.50.

Dunrobin Castle, stately home and seat of the Clan Sutherland, is north of Golspie, with the station nearby.

▼ **DRS Class 37/5 No. 37688** *Kingmoor TMD* **heads south near Eaton Lane, Retford, on the ECML with a DVT move from Doncaster to Norwich Crown Point on 8th March. Mk3 DVT No. 82114 had been receiving attention at Wabtec Rail. Steven Craig**

Southeastern franchise extended for three years

Despite some complaints from Kent MPs, the Department for Transport has extended the Southeastern franchise for a further three years, now to expire on 31st March 2014.

Keith Ludeman, Group Chief Executive of Go-Ahead and Chairman of Govia, said: "We are pleased that this important franchise, which carries over 160 million passengers a year, will run to 2014. In the first five years of this franchise Southeastern has increased the number of train services operated across the region and customer satisfaction has risen. It has successfully introduced the UK's first domestic high-speed service and independent research shows that passengers using this service are the most satisfied in the UK. More than £10 million has been invested in employee training and development, £40 million on improvements at stations and £174 million on new high-speed trains for the region. Our focus will be on continuing to further improve punctuality and reliability of our services for passengers. In the past four weeks Southeastern has delivered in excess of 90% punctuality across the network. Southeastern is committed to increasing customer satisfaction, particularly through ensuring more effective passenger communication – especially in times of disruption. This continuation will allow us to further invest and improve performance".

Southeastern has also announced that from summer this year it will move to the 'delay repay' compensation scheme, meaning that any passengers delayed by 30 minutes or more can claim compensation. This brings it into line with the other Go-Ahead/Keolis franchises, it being an arrangement welcomed by passengers and rail user groups.

Also, from 23rd May, Southeastern will be introducing a new high-speed service for Maidstone East, services to the station having been reduced on the introduction of the Class 395 'Javelin' trains calling at Faversham.

▼ **The 09.58 Southeastern service from London Victoria to Gillingham passes through Shortlands on 14th February, formed of an immaculate Class 465/9 No. 465927. Brian Morrison**

▲ **When is a station not a station? When it is a station that closed over nine years ago but still has its BR double arrow logo and Network SouthEast signage! This is Watford West, seen on 6th March and despite having been officially closed in November 2002 you could be fooled into thinking there was still a railway line here!**

▶ **The red lamp posts and platform are about all that give away that there was a station here! Some nine years after official closure, and some 15 years since the last train passed here, this is Watford Stadium station, pictured on the same day. Both: Tony Rispoli**

◀ Class 92 No. 92019 *Wagner* passes Ashford International on 14th March, with a Dollands Moor to Polmadie working, conveying Siemens-built Class 380/0 No. 380008 and Class 380/1 No. 380112, en route for delivery to Shields Road Depot in Glasgow. **Lewis Smith**

◀▼ DRS Class 66/4s Nos. 66425 and 66420, on hire to DB Schenker as noted in our last issue, call at Plymouth while working a Westbury to St Blazey ballast service in 'top and tail' mode, prior to undertaking a ballast drop on the Newquay branch. **Nathan Williamson**

▼ Bombardier-built Class 379 No. 379008 brings up the rear of a formation passing Lichfield, while on a mileage accumulation and testing run, led by classmate No. 379007. **John Whitehouse**

UK Steam & Modern Traction Railtour Listings

23rd March 2011

Compass Tours	2xWCRC 47	Rugby-Tamworth-Crewe-Hellifield-S&C-Carlisle--Workington-Carnforth-Rugby

25th March 2011

Rail-Blue Charters	31454+31601	Leicester-Langley Mill-Sheffield-Barnsley-York-Battersby-Grosmont-Whitby & rtn
Compass Tours	2xWCRC 47	Hereford-Shrewsbury-Crewe-Hellifield-S&C-Carlisle-Maryport-Carnforth-Hereford

26th March 2011

Railway Touring Co.	70013	London LS-Norwich-(Cromer)-Holt(-Cromer)-Norwich-Ipswich-Liverpool Street
UK Railtours	tbc	London Euston-Crewe-Chester-Llandudno Junction-Bangor & return
Vintage Trains	6201	(Tyseley Warwick Road-Crewe)-Shap-Carlisle-S&C-Bolton-Crewe and return
Spitfire Railtours	2xWCRC 37	Weston super Mare-Cheltenham Spa-Manchester Victoria-Chester & return
Spitfire Railtours	2xWCRC 37	Manchester Victoria-Chester-Rhyl-Llandudno Junction-Bangor-Holyhead & return
Hastings Diesels Ltd	Hastings 1001	Hastings-Tonbridge-Hitchin-Ely-Dereham-Wymondham-Ely-Stratford-Clapham Jct & return as outwards

27th March 2011

Steam Dreams	70000	London Victoria-Bristol Temple Meads & return	**Postponed**

30th March 2011

Rail-Blue Charters	DBS 67	Watford Jct-Northampton-Nuneaton-Telford Central-Craven Arms-Llandrindod Wells-Cardiff-Newport-Reading-Watford Jct-Tring-Northampton-Rugby-Nuneaton
Railway Touring Co.	34067	London Victoria-Swanley-Maidstone East-Hastings-Battle-Tunbridge Wells-Otford-Swanley-Bromley South-London Victoria

31st March 2011

Steam Dreams	70013	Aylesbury-West Hampstead-Royston-Norwich & return	**Postponed**

1st April 2011

VSOE	35028	London Victoria-Virginia Water-Woking-Shalford-Redhill-London Victoria	
Spitfire Railtours	2xWCRC 37	London Paddington-Reading-Southampton Central-Lymington Pier-Eastleigh-Reading-Twyford-Henley on Thames-Bourne End-Slough-Windsor & Eton Central-Slough--St. Albans Abbey-Watford Junction-London Euston	**Postponed**

2nd April 2011

Statesman Rail	tbc	Milton Keynes-NorthamptonCrewe-Blackburn-Hellifield-S&C-Carlisle & return	
UK Railtours	tbc	Stevenage-Watford Jct-Stoke on Trent-Crewe-Altrincham-New Mills South Jct-Hope Valley-Toton-Loughborough-Peterborough-Stevenage-Finsbury Park	
Railway Touring Co.	70000	Cleethorpes-Liverpool Lime Street and return	**Cancelled**
Vintage Trains	4965 & 5043	Tyseley Warwick Road-Worcester SH-Kemble-Swindon-Didcot Parkway & return	
Pathfinder Tours	DBS 60 & DBS 66	Bristol TM-Cheltenham Spa-Coleshill Parkway-Toton Centre-Lincoln-Cleethorpes-Immingham Dock Tramway-Scunthorpe-Sheffield-Derby & return as outwards	
Spitfire Railtours	2xWCRC 37	London Euston-Clapham Jct-Selhurst-East Croydon-Caterham-Crystal Palace-Guildford-Motspur Park-London Waterloo-Redhill-Littlehampton-Ealing Broadway	
Railway Touring Co.	34067	Cleethorpes--Scunthorpe-Hope Valley-Altrincham-Chester-Sheffield(-Cleethorpes)	

7th April 2011

Steam Dreams	70000	Oxford-Reading-Slough-Kensington Olympia-Canterbury West & return

9th April 2011

Statesman Rail	tbc	Ely-Peterborough-Doncaster-Leeds-Hellifield-S&C-Carlisle & return
Railway Touring Co.	70013	London King's Cross-Peterborough-Spalding-Skegness-London King's Cross

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

There is an interesting mix of tours to look forward to this coming week, with a variety of routes, operators and motive power on offer.

For the period under view, steam leads the way and in the process marks the first outing of the year for LMS 'Princess Royal' Pacific No. 6201 *Princess Elizabeth*. 2011 marks the loco's final year in traffic prior to withdrawal for boiler overhaul and it is pleasing to note that the diary is busy with bookings, commencing on 26th March with an 'out and back' working to Carlisle.

The tour, appropriately named the 'Settle & Carlisle' starts from Tyseley Warwick Road behind a Class 47, bound initially for Crewe where the steam takes over for the outward run over Shap. After a break in Carlisle, 'Lizzie' heads the return working, via the S&C, as far as Crewe, where diesel traction once again takes over for the return to the West Midlands.

Meanwhile, in North Norfolk the same day, 'Britannia' Pacific No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* is due to haul what will be only the second, steam-hauled main line charter over the reopened level crossing at Sheringham, when it ventures on NNR metals with the Railway Touring Company's 'The Broadsman' charter. The train originates at London Liverpool Street, and runs via Colchester to Norwich. Here, the train is split in order to accommodate the restricted track layout at Cromer, where it reverses again to gain access to Sheringham. As a result of the double-reversal, the trip is diesel-hauled between Norwich and Cromer outwards, and from Holt to Cromer on the return.

The remainder of the time should see *Oliver Cromwell* at the business end.

A good mix of modern and heritage traction complements the steam workings, with a further six tours operating, two of which are operated by Compass Railtours. 'The Trent Lakelander' from Rugby to Carlisle on 23rd March, outwards over the S&C and back around the Cumbrian Coast, is followed by the 'Settle Lakelander' two days later from Hereford to Carlisle, which follows the same routing. Friday 25th March is also the date for a Rail Blue Charters working from Leicester to Whitby featuring a pair of BARS/Hanson Class 31s Nos. 31454 & 31601. The 'Whitby Jet' works over the Erewash Valley to Sheffield, and then onwards to Barnsley via Wombwell. The ever-popular Hastings DEMU is also heading for Norfolk on 26th March, with Dereham on the Mid-Norfolk Railway its destination. Setting out from Hastings, it will be picking up at most of its usual places plus East Croydon and Clapham Junction, prior to heading for Ely, which is a set-down point, and then to Wymondham prior to reversing onto the heritage line. The return is booked via Harlow and Stratford.

Manchester, Chester and Holyhead are the options on Spitfire Railtours' 'Holy Oakes' from Weston-super-Mare, which picks up via Worcester Shrub Hill to Tame Bridge Parkway, before continuing to Manchester Victoria and then onwards to Chester. Spitfire have a mini-tour option which is destined for Holyhead, and can be joined at either Manchester Victoria or Chester. A pair of West Coast Class 37s are the nominated traction.

Rail-Blue heads for Whitby with Class 31s

On 25th March, Rail-Blue Charters will be taking a pair of Class 31s to the seaside.

The operator, will once again be employing BARS/Hanson Class 31/4 No. 31454 and Class 31/6 No. 31601 on the 'Whitby Jet' from Leicester to Whitby. Seats remain available on this excursion, and the operators advise that a 'pay on the day' option will be available from all pick-up points.

◀ **SR Battle of Britain Pacific No. 34067 *Tangmere* steams through Chorlton, on the West Coast Main Line, on 18th March, while operating from Carnforth to Southall prior to working the 'Bristol & Bath' tour for Railway Touring Company on 19th March. The locomotive has made a welcome return to main line operations after its over-running overhaul, rumoured to be as a result of steaming problems, which, given the locos performance on this working, appear to have been corrected.** **Frank Richards**

Ups & Downs

- Pathing issues are believed to be behind the re-dating of Steam Dreams' Aylesbury to Norwich 'Cathedrals Express' from 31st March until 29th August. Motive power for the revised date has yet to be confirmed.
- Rail-Blue Charters trip from Berwick-upon-Tweed to Kyle of Lochalsh on 20th May has been cancelled as a result of operational issues.

'Train of Hope' draws industry support to raise funds for CLIC Sargent cancer charity

'Train of Hope', the charity event of the year, which is being organised by five Virgin Trains drivers, is going from strength to strength.

Tickets for the main feature, the Crewe to Carlisle charter booked for 1st October, will go on sale from 1st April, and booking forms can be downloaded from their website at www.trainofhope.co.uk The train will be hauled by West Coast's 'Royal Scot' 4-6-0 No. 46115 *Scots Guardsman*, and will run north over Shap after picking up at Warrington Bank Quay, Wigan North Western and Preston. The return will be by way of the Settle & Carlisle, with steam giving way to diesel-haulage at Hellifield for the remainder of the journey back to Crewe.

It is an all dining car train, with breakfast served outwards and a five-course meal on the return included within the £179 fare. The organisers particularly wish to thank the West Coast Railway Company, which have made a major donation to the fund raising appeal by supplying the use of No. 46115 without charge. Additionally, many of the crew who will be involved with working the train are also donating their earnings for the day to the appeal.

While the special charter train is the main focus of the appeal, there is much more going on in the background to maximise fundraising. One of the most exciting aspects is a planned auction on eBay, for which many individuals and organisations, particularly from within the railway industry, have donated some exceptional items. For instance, there are three separate chances to experience life as a driver on train simulators. Virgin Trains has donated a day on its Pendolino simulator at Crewe, which includes First Class travel to and from Crewe and a night's accommodation at the Ramada Hotel at Crewe. First Capital Connect is offering a cab ride on either its Thameslink or Great Eastern routes in the morning, followed by an afternoon with its Class 319 or 365 simulator. Alternatively, there is the chance to enjoy Trans Pennine's Class 185 simulator, located in Ardwick, Manchester, which is also available for the day.

Other excellent railway related donations include eight Rover Tickets from Northern Rail (which will be auctioned in 4 lots of 2 each), while anyone wishing to visit the North Yorkshire Railway can acquire accommodation at High Mill self catering accommodation near Pickering, which has provided accommodation for up to 12 people for two days or two people for a week. Again, full details of items to be auctioned can be obtained from its website, while the auction itself is under the user name of 'trainofhope2011' on eBay. There will be also be a raffle to be drawn in September 2011, which includes major prizes such as two First Class dining tickets on the Orient Express, combined with two First Class Virgin tickets to connect with the VSOE working, while Eurostar will provide two Standard Class return tickets from St Pancras International, Ebbsfleet International or Ashford International to either Brussels, Lille, Paris or Disneyland Paris. Northern Rail will also be providing eight All-Day Rover tickets for the raffle.

Bear in mind that the above mentioned is just a small selection of a huge array of items donated for the auction and raffle. On top of which, there will also be a raffle on board the train on the day. The beneficiary of all this effort will be the CLIC Sargent charity, which looks after children with cancer. It provides support for not only the children, but also their families while in hospital, when receiving treatment and afterwards at home. They are, indeed, a very deserving cause for your support.

GB4 to be steam hauled from Wick to Penzance

Difficulty in pathing 'GBIV' on the Far North Line has caused a radical rethink in how the train is operated to Wick, the far outpost of the National Network.

First ScotRail now run a more intensive service between Wick, Thurso and Inverness, which makes pathing additional services difficult. Add to this the further constraints of steam operations, and the issue becomes a problem to the extent that planning an 'out and back' charter to operate within an acceptable timescale is now virtually impossible.

As a consequence, it is understood that passengers will now be transported from Inverness to Wick by road to connect with the train, which having travelled up ECS to Wick during the early hours of the morning diesel-hauled, will then return to Inverness steam-hauled with Ian Riley's 'Black 5s' Nos. 44871 & 45407. However, every cloud has a silver lining, in this case being that the change to steam haulage from Wick means that 'GBIV' will now be steam-hauled throughout from Wick to Penzance. Quite a feat in 2011, just short of 43-years since the official end of BR steam traction.

Motive power for the Preston to Bristol Temple Meads leg has now been finalised with No. 5029 *Nunney Castle* now confirmed, as it looks as if plans to use No. 6024 *King Edward I* foundered at the gauging stage. The 'Castle' also has charge of the last leg of this year's tour from Bristol Temple Meads to London Paddington. One other change is the substitution of 'Black 5' No. 45305 for No. 70000 *Britannia*, which will now double-head with No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* on the outward leg from Bristol Temple Meads to Penzance on 23rd April, which returns to Temple Meads diesel-hauled.

▼ The last time the 'Great Britain' trip visited the Far North Line was four years ago when LMS '8F' 2-8-0 No. 48151 worked from Inverness, seen here north of Brora on 12th April 2007, bound for Thurso. In 2011, LMS traction comes to the Far North line again, in the form of 'Black 5s' Nos. 44871 and 45407, this time working south to Inverness. Brian Morrison

VINTAGE TRAINS

THE CORONATION EXPRESS

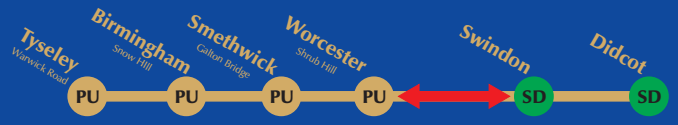
Saturday 2nd April 2011

Saturday 2nd April will be a red letter day that no true Great Western enthusiast will want to miss, when our good friends at the Great Western Society celebrate the return to service of their "King" class locomotive No 6023 "King Edward II" at the end of a marathon restoration effort. Our train will be double headed by our Great Western Hall & Castle class locos, 4965 "Rood Ashton Hall" and 5043 "Earl Of Mount Edgcumbe". We start from Tyseley Warwick Road platform before heading to Birmingham Snow Hill, making additional pick ups at Smethwick Galton Bridge and Worcester Shrub Hill. After watering at Gloucester, we head up the spectacular and picturesque Golden Valley to the summit of the line at Sapperton Tunnel, before descending to the locomotives' birth place at Swindon, then on to Brunel's famous Great Western main line for the 24 mile final sprint to Didcot, home of the Great Western Society, where passengers will be able to join in the celebration of the return to steam of 6023, almost 49 years after it was sent to the scrapyard.

Please note that admission tickets for the Didcot Railway Centre are not included, but will be available from GWS representatives on the train.

Standard Class	Premier Dining	First Class
£65	£135	£99

Includes a full English breakfast and a traditional 3-course dinner.
Tables for two in First Class and Premier Dining : £20 per table (£10 per person extra)



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just by catching a train...

CLIC Sargent for children with cancer

Train of Hope

Scenic Charity Railtour

1st October 2011

Enjoy a beautiful scenic steam railtour departing from Crewe and travelling along the legendary Settle-Carlisle line, all in aid of CLIC Sargent, the children's cancer charity.

Luxurious first class carriages await, along with sumptuous fine dining and breathtaking views, all set to the soundtrack of iconic British steam power.

Get involved today, with eBay auctions and raffle prizes, also all for CLIC Sargent.

For full journey details and auction listings, visit www.trainofhope.co.uk

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▲ At a soggy Shoeburyness as dusk falls on 5th March, Class 357/0 Electrostar No. 357026 forms the 17.20 to Fenchurch Street, via Basildon, alongside the farewell Blue Train tour, formed of Class 357s Nos. 357227 and 357028, waiting to follow five minutes later to Gas Factory Junction. The non-stop tour overtook the service train at Leigh-on-Sea. **Antony Guppy**

▼ On 16th March, BR Standard 7P Pacific No. 70000 *Britannia* undertook its first loaded test run between Crewe and Chester, since correction of the faults that caused the cancellation of its previous loaded test run on 10th November. The black 'Brit' passes Beeston Castle in fine form. **David Newton**

After extensive repairs, BR Standard 7P Pacific No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* **returned to the main line on 12th March, when it worked 'The Lincoln Imp' charter from London Victoria, via the Midland Main Line. Here, the 'Brit' climbs through Souldrop, heading for Kettering. Roger Brown**

▲ The Isle of Wight Steam Railway is celebrating its 40th Anniversary this year, marked by a series of events the highlight of which will be a special Spring Gala between 28th - 30th May, featuring a number of visiting locomotives. However, the railway's own Class O2 0-4-4T No. 24 *Calbourne* will be taking pride of place after having spent its career on the Isle of Wight system in both Southern and later British Railways ownership. On 12th March, *Calbourne* is seen standing at the IoWR's western terminus of Wootton, while working an Adrian Palmer photographic charter. **John Whitehouse**

◀ During the same charter event, No. 24 passes Ashey during one of a number of run-pasts on the approach to the station. **Fred Kerr**

New model event is a feature of Butterley calendar

A major model railway exhibition, sponsored by Bachmann, is the significant new feature of the Midland Railway's calendar for 2011.

It is due to take place over the weekend of 13th/14th August and will feature a number of layouts, together with the usual trade stands. More details are awaited, and it is understood that this event may become a regular annual event. The railway's extensive diesel fleet will see action throughout the year, and principally at galas scheduled for 21st/22nd May and 8th/9th October. Steam will remain the major attraction, with a gala booked for 1st/2nd October and the Vintage Train operating over both the May and August Bank Holiday weekends. The Golden Valley narrow gauge line, together with the Garden Railway will be staging their own gala on 9th/10th July. Other events include a 1960s weekend on 11th/12th June and a special event celebrating the Coronation featuring the Royal Coach on 25th/26th June.

Finally, and perhaps one of the Midland Railway's most popular events, is its DMU Weekend, scheduled for 10th/11th September, when the home fleet will be in action plus some visitors, which in the past have been main line units from the East Midlands Trains fleet.

Welsh Assembly Minister marks the official start of work on Llangollen's Corwen extension

The Welsh Assembly Government Deputy Minister, Jocelyn Davies AM, visited the Llangollen Railway on 17th March, to officially mark the start of work on the line's Corwen extension.

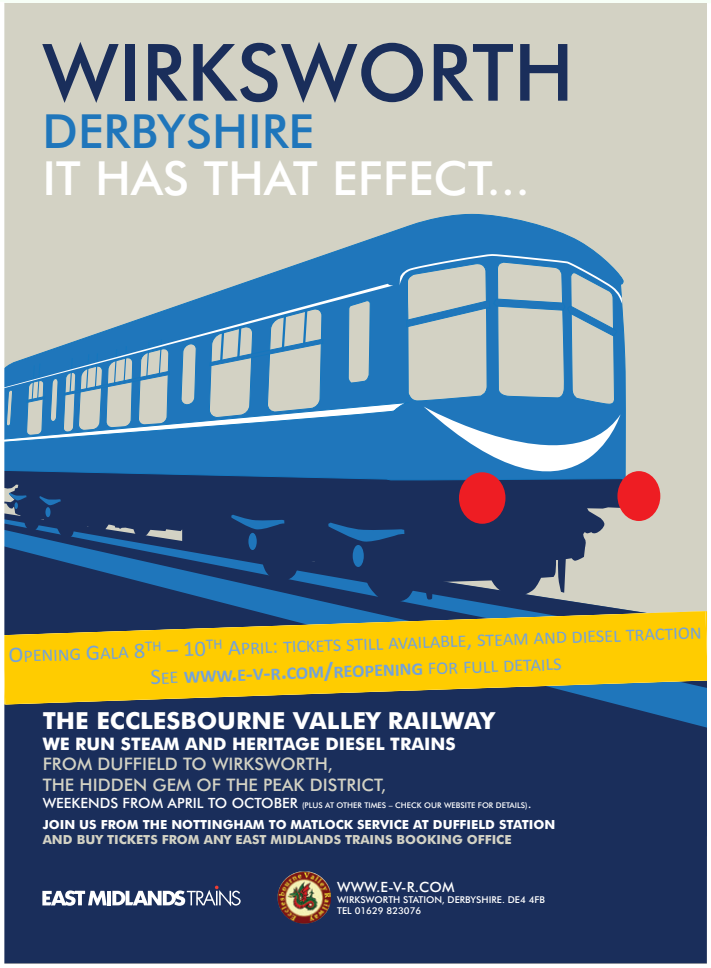
After travelling to Glyndyfrdwy by steam, the Minister and party travelled by road to the site of the new temporary station for Phase 1 of the extension.

In a short ceremony, the Minister was invited by the Chairman of the Llangollen Railway Trust, Jim Ritchie, to initiate the project by digging the first sod. The spade used for the occasion will be suitably etched to commemorate the start of the Corwen project and is to be displayed at Llangollen station.

The Chairman said that the first train could be expected in Corwen next year. He went on to say that: "Most of the work involved in laying the track will be undertaken by volunteer staff at the railway. However, we need help from supporters and well-wishers to raise further funds to ensure completion of this important extension to the heritage line in the Dee Valley".

Rules and regulations involved in the construction of the new extension are a world apart from those that were involved when the first steps were taken to relay the Llangollen Railway, over 30 years ago. As John Briggs, Project Manager explaind: "Extending a railway alongside an SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) i.e the River Dee, requires careful management. The key to this has been the agreement of Countryside Commission for Wales to our conservation management plan. As a consequence of that plan we will work closely with ecologists to maintain the biodiversity of the site, which places some restriction on the timing of engineering activities within the project plan".

The project has been made possible by £500,000 of Welsh Assembly Government funding that was recently announced by the Deputy Minister, £370,000 of which, has been made available this year, allowing the work to begin sooner than expected.



Charity open day at Crewe Heritage Centre and Basford Hall

With support from Freightliner, Crewe Heritage Centre held a charity open weekend on 12th/13th March in support of The Emmie Dixon Home in Crewe.

The event featured a selection of Freightliner locomotives on display as well as conducted tours of Basford Hall yard. The event was a popular one with several locomotives on show, including BR Standard 7P Pacific No. 70000 *Britannia* and pioneer LMS 'Royal Scot' 4-6-0 No. 6100 *Royal Scot*.

▶ Freightliner Class 70 No. 70011 and Class 66/6 No. 66619 were two of the exhibits within the heritage centre itself. David Hainsworth

▼ A variety of motive power, past and present, was on display. In this view are No. 70000 *Britannia*, two Class 37s, the APT set and the cab of Class 40 No. 40088, now mounted on a road trailer. Brian Garrett

Final preparations are made for opening of Duffield extension

Work continues apace on the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway (EVR) ahead of the formal reopening ceremony of the line from Wirksworth to Duffield on 6th April by HRH The Duke of Gloucester.

The main focus is at Duffield, where the new station platform is close to completion, and offers a virtual cross platform connection from East Midlands Trains (EMT) services. Indeed, one of the recent major developments is that it will be possible to book through tickets from the National Network to EVR stations. EMT has included Wirksworth and Idridgehay stations on to its system which means that from 23rd March it will be possible to buy a through ticket from any National Network station. This facility is accompanied by an eye-catching poster, which is featured in this and subsequent issues of *Railway Herald*.

The extended railway will open to the public for the first time on Friday 8th April for three days of intensive operations. Tickets for the opening trains have been on sale since early February, and pre-booking is recommended, as high demand is expected. The extended railway will also provide a focus for the town of Wirksworth itself, which first settled around 700 AD, and was granted the right to hold markets by Edward I in 1306. Nowadays it stands at the gateway to the Peak District, and retains many old buildings of character, which surround the still active market place. It also has, we are told, some excellent public houses, of which three are mentioned in The Good Beer Guide!

Focus on the railway will be BR Standard Class 2MT Mogul No. 78019 from the Great Central Railway, which is due to arrive by the end of the month. The loco will be the star of the opening weekend, prior to a two-month stay on the line.

▼ **During the Bluebell Railway Branch Line gala weekend on 12th/13th March, SE&CR P Class 0-6-0T No. 178 approaches Horsted Keynes with the 10.00 mixed service from Sheffield Park. Gary Packer**

A touch of London comes to Norfolk

The Buckinghamshire Railway Centre's GWR 5700 class Pannier No. 7715, now painted in London Transport livery as L99, has arrived at Sheringham to begin a two-year stay on the North Norfolk Railway.

One of 863 locomotives built to the 5700 Class design, the loco was the last of 13 such locomotives acquired by London Transport for use on permanent-way trains, operating from Lillie Road and Neasden depots, and during LT service, made regular runs to Acton Works and Croxley Tip, near Watford.

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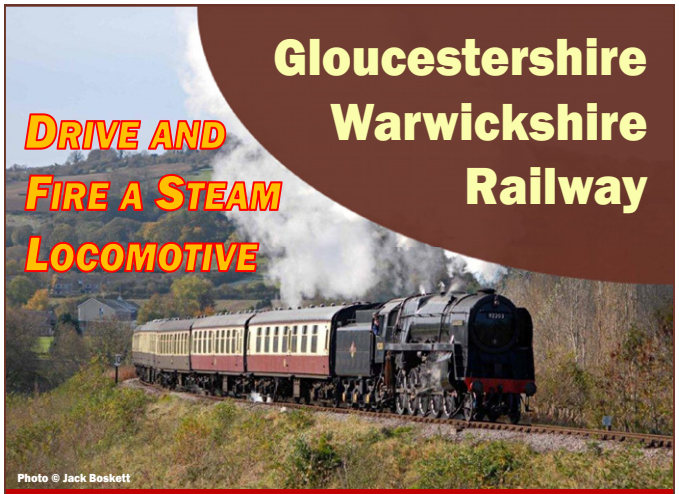
▶ **Newly restored Southern Region U class 2-6-0 No. 31806 storms up the bank towards Ropley on the Mid Hants-Railway during a photographic charter on 14th March. The locomotive has recently returned to steam for the first time in 20 years and will be one of the star attractions at the forthcoming Mid-Hants Railway gala weekend on 25th-27th March, alongside the pair of GWR 4-4-0s, 'City' No. 3440** *City of Truro* **from the National Railway Museum, and 'Dukedog' No. 9017** *Earl of Berkeley* **from the Bluebell Railway. Stuart Chapman**



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Glos GL54 5DT
01242 621405
fireanddrive@gwsr.com

Mid-Hants gala loses 'King' due to main line gauging problems

The Mid-Hants Railway has received a late setback to its forthcoming gala scheduled for 25th - 27th March, as No. 6024 *King Edward I* **will not now be attending.**

This is due to gauging issues with the movement of the locomotive from Bristol to Alton, which will also prevent it heading the Preston to Bristol leg of Railway Touring Company's 'Great Britain IV' next month. A replacement is being sought, details of which will be posted on its website, if successful. However, No. 3440 *City of Truro* and 9017 *Earl of Berkeley* are still scheduled, representing the GWR, while from the home fleet BR Standard 5MT 4-6-0 No. 73096 could well be making a final appearance on the railway before overhaul, while U class Mogul No. 31806 will also be in action, alongside SR 'Lord Nelson' 4-6-0 No. 850 *Lord Nelson*.

The Mid-Hants loss is the West Somerset's gain, as the gauging issues mean that the 'King' will now be an extra visitor at the West Somerset's Spring Gala, where it will join with visiting BR 'Britiania' Pacific No. 70000 *Britannia*, GWR 'Manor' No. 7812 *Erlstoke Manor*, SR 'S15' 4-6-0 No. 30777 *Sir Lamiel*, GWR 2800 class 2-8-0 No. 2807 and GWR Pannier No. 6430.

The Staffordshire Moorlands will be reverberating to the sound of diesels on 26th/27th March, with the Churnet Valley's diesel gala featuring trains operating between Kingsley & Froghall, via Cheddleton and Leekbrook Junction, to Cauldon Lowe. The home fleet will be in traffic, which consists of Class 04 No. D2334, Class 33 No. 33021 and Class 37/0 No. 37109, together with the CVR's Class 104 DMU, which will be making its first trip to Cauldon Lowe.

The Great Central has a 1960s theme to its coming gala, which spans 25th - 27th March, and features a combination of both steam and diesel traction. Of note will be the appearance of both the Turkish and Maroon Class 8Fs, Nos. 45160 and 48624, which will be supported by 'Black 5' 4-6-0 No. 45305, 2800 class 2-8-0 No. 3850 and 1400 class 0-4-2T No. 1450 operating with the autocoach, together with Class 45 No. 123 and a Class 20. The Class 101 DMU is also booked to operate on 27th March. The feature of the weekend will be the first appearance of the unique-liveried No. 48624 on the Great Central Railway.

Preservation View

The North Norfolk Railway held its Spring Gala weekend over 12th/13th March, with an impressive array of locomotives.

◀ LNER 'J72' 0-6-0T No. 69023, LNER 'J15' 0-6-0 No. 65462 and LMS 'Jinty' 0-6-0T No. 47406 make an impressive sight as they approach Weybourne station on 12th March, after coming off shed.

▼◀ GWR 'City' 4-4-0 No. 3717 *City of Truro* accelerates away from a request stop at Kelling Heath, with the 09.45 service from Holt on the same day.

▼ 'Jinty' No. 47406 departs from Sheringham on the 11.45 service to Holt on 13th March. **All: Ian Williams**

BR blue-liveried Class 31/1 No. 31106 leads a Doncaster to Derby test train past the site of the former Clay Cross station on 11th March. **Simon Kerry**

Class 60 No. 60045 *The Permanent Way Institution* **was employed on a Peak Forest to Stourton stone working on 12th March. The return empties are pictured passing Oakenshaw, Wakefield. Neil Scarlett**

Amid what would appear to be a construction site, Class 67 No. 67009 pauses at Edinburgh Waverley on 9th March, while providing the motive power for a Cardenden to Millerhill ECS working. **Graeme Eadington**

DBS Class 66 No. 66155 is just one of a number of the class that are in evidence at Crewe Basford Hall on 13th March, seen during a guided tour of the yard in connection with a Charity Open Day at the Heritage Centre. **Steve Kemp**

▲ Class 97/3s Nos. 97303 and 97302, working in 'top and tail' mode, head a Carlisle - Derby RTC working through Balshaw Lane Junction on 16th March, running almost three hours early! **Dave Dean**

▲ Network Rail Class 97/3 No. 97301 heads a test train from Derby RTC to Selhurst Depot through Wellingborough on 14th March, with Class 73/1 No. 73138 on the rear of the train. **Steve Madden**

▼ DRS Class 37/0 No. 37059, with classmate No. 37069 on the rear, thunders through Pilning on 15th March with a circular test working from Bristol Temple Meads. **Tony Rispoli**

Class 60 No. 60099 passes the Cemex Quarry Sidings at Peak Forest with the Oakleigh - Tunstead empty BLI hoppers on 17th March. **Geoffrey Arnold**

14th March 2011

Driffield & East Yorkshire Rly Society
The Sidings, Middle Street South, Driffield, YO25 6PX. 'Five Decades of Photographing Trains' by John Whiteley. Starts 19.30. £2 donation requested. Contact the Secretary on 01377 254068 for further details.

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. Meeting commences at 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.

Southern Electric Group (Sussex)
Deall Room, Southwick Community Centre, Southwick. 'Update on The Brighton Atlantic Project; by David Jones. Meeting commences at 19.30. Donation of £2 requested. Contact the Secretary, Bruce Cakebread on 01273 462094 for further details.

York Railway Circle
Archbishop Holgate's School, Hull Road, York YO10 5ZA 'Now and Then' by Ken Horan. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Robin Patrick on 01904 412232 for further details.

17th March 2011

Ffestiniog Railway Society (White Rose)
Oxford Place Methodist Centre, Oxford Place, Leeds LS1 3AX. AGM/FRS Society Chairman Howard Wilson. Meeting starts 19.30. £2 donation. Contact the Secretary on 01904 331973 for further details.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Nth West)
St David's Social Centre, 249 Wargrave Road, Newton-le-Willows, WA12 8EW. '45 Years of Railway Photography' by Les Nixon. Starts 19.30. £2 donation suggested. Contact the Secretary, Neville Bond on 01925 226473 for further details.

Marlow & District Railway Society
Bourne End Community Centre, Wakeman Road, Bourne End, SL8 5SX. 'The Final Years of UK Steam' by Peter Groom. Meeting commences at 20.00. Admission £3.

Monmouthshire Rly Society
Room A10, UWCN City Campus, Usk Way, Newport, S.Wales NP20 2BP. 'Out & About in the Last 12 Months' by Hugh Gould. Starts 19.15. Admission £3 non-members.

18th March 2011

Great Western Society (Taunton)
Village Hall, Stoke St Mary, Nr Taunton TA3 5DE. 'UK Steam 1981-2010' by Hugh Ballantyne. Starts 19.30. All welcome. Contact the Secretary on 01823 334188.

19th March 2011

Great Western Society (South West)
Parish Centre, Church End Road, Kingskerswell, Torbay. 'A Peter Gray Evening'. Starts 18.30. All welcome. Contact 01803 336329 for details.

Irwell Vale Rly Photographers
Irwell Vale Village Church, Irwell Vale, Rossendale. 'Hellifield Part II' by Barry Atkinson. Starts 19.30. Admission £3. Contact Mike Taylor on 01282 436653 for further details.

Midland Rly Society
Derby Industrial Museum. '… and the Dominions beyond the Seas: the Midland's Irish strategies and its Vice-Royalty in Ulster' by David Pearson. Starts 13.30. Contact 01462 451090 for further details.

21st March 2011

GCR Society (Spinkhill)
The Angel Hote 26 College Road, Spinkhill, Sheffield S21 3YB. 'Digging out the Old Negatives' by Ken Horan. Starts 19.30. Contact Frank Greaves on 01909 473927 for further details.

Plymouth Rly Circle
St Edward's Church Hall, Home Park Avenue, Peverell, Plymouth PL3 4PG. 'North Cornwall Railways from Exeter to the Atlantic Ocean' by Bernard Mills. Meeting commences at 19.30. Admission Members £1, Visitors £2.

24th March 2011

Stevenage Loco Society
The Community Arts Centre, Roaring Meg Retail Park, London Road, Stevenage SG1 1XN. 'Diversions - Modern Traction' by Kim Fulbrook. Starts 19.45. Admission £2. Contact 07803 046076 for further details.

25th March 2011

Gravesend Railway Enthusiasts Society
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Windmill Street, Gravesend DA12 1BB. 'The Routermaster Bus - Gravesend Area' by George Marcar. Starts 19.45. Contact Bob Poole on 01474 326232.

Great Western Society (North West)
St Hilda's Clubroom, Slater Street, Latchford, Warrington WA4 1DN. 'Visitor from Didcot - Laurence Waters'. Starts 19.30. All welcome.

Scarborough Rly Society
Scarborough Library, Vernon Rd, '60s Scenes Rediscovered' by Geoff Boyes. Meeting starts 19.45.

Shropshire Rly Society
The Gateway, Chester Street, Shrewsbury. 'Chiltern Rail and Its Future' by Adrian Shooter. Starts 19.30. £3 Donation. Contact 01743 243295 for details

31st March 2011

NYMR (York)
New Earswick Sports & Social Club, White Rose Avenue, York YO32 4AG. 'Steam On and Off the Rails' by David Warren. Starts 19.30. Contact B. Blundell on 01904 764648.

Stevenage Loco Society
The Community Arts Centre, Roaring Meg Retail Park, London Road, Stevenage SG1 1XN. 'Steam Photography at its Best' by John Leszczynski. Starts 19.45. Admission £2. Contact 07803 046076 for details.

4th April 2011

North Yorkshire Moors Railway (Northallerton)
Northallerton Town Cricket Club, Farndale Avenue, Northallerton. 'Streamlined Trains' by Chris Nettleton. Starts 19.30. Admission £1.50. Contact Ian McInnes on 01642 767233 for further details.

Warwickshire Rly Society
The Lamp Tavern, Barford Street, Highgate, Birmingham. 'French Steam in the Sixties' by Hugh Ballatyne. Starts 19.30. Contact Don Taggart on 01746 710676 for details

5th April 2011

Gravesend Railway Enthusiasts Society
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Windmill Street, Gravesend DA12 1BB. 'Gravesham & District Railways' by Bob Poole. Starts 19.45. Contact Bob Poole on 01474 326232 for details.

Locomotive & Carriage Institution
55 Broadway, London. '25 Years of the Spa Valley Railway' by Brian Halford. Starts 18.00. Contact Stuart Smith at smithstuart@btinternet.com.

North East Essex Railway Association
1st Floor, The Community Centre, The Triangle Centre, Frinton-on-Sea. 'North Wales Narrow Gauge' by Tony Baxter. Meeting commences 19.45. Admission £1.50. Contact Roger Harvey on 01255 677165.

Southern Electric Group (South Hampshire)
Eastleigh Railway Institute, Romsey Road, Eastleigh. 'A Railway Miscellany' by Martyn Davies. 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. 'A Colour-Rail Journey' by Paul Chancellor. Starts 20.00. Contact Lionel Jones on 01934 628289 for further details.

7th April 2011

RCTS (Milton Keynes)
The Crown, Market Square, Stony Stratford MK11 1BE. '30 Years of BR Traction 1981-2010' by Hugh Ballantyne. Meeting starts 19.30.

8th April 2011

Altrincham Electric Rly Preservation Society
Altrincham Methodist Church Hall, Barington Road, Altrincham, Cheshire WA1 1HF. 'Tornado ' A Steam Loco for the 21st Century' by Graham Nicholas. Starts 19.30. Admission £3. Contact Andrew Macfarlane on 0161 928 9394.

Great Western Society (Swindon)
Lawn Community Centre, Guildford Avenue, off Windsor Road, Lawn, Swindon SN3 1JE. 'Aspects of the G.W.R., Part 2' by Peter Lugg. Starts 19.30. Visitors welcome. Contact the Secretary on 01793 495976.

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.

▼ **On 13th March, Eastleigh played host to three GBRf Class 73/2s, each carrying a different livery! From left to right are Nos. 73208** *Kristen*, **73212 and 73213. Fred Kerr**

Scarborough Rly Society
Scarborough Library, Vernon Road, Scarborough. 'Films from the Archives of the National Railway Museum, York' by Lynn Parick & Chris Hogg. Meeting starts at 19.45.

Shropshire Rly Society
The Gateway, Chester Street, Shrewsbury. 'Sheds Part 7' by Chris Banks. Meeting starts 19.30. £3 Donation. Contact 01743 243295 for further details.

9th April 2011
Bournemouth Rly Club
Winton Community Centre, All Purpose Room, Heron Court Road, Winton, Bournemouth BH9 1DE 'European Extremes - From Finland to Portugal 1959 to 2010' by Alan Trickett. Starts 14.30. £2 donation. Contact 01202 742099 for details.

Midland Rly Society
Edale Room, Hallmark (previously Midland Hotel), Derby. 'AGM'. Starts 11.00. Contact the Secretary on 01482 451090.

11th April 2011
Lincoln Railway Society
St Hugh's Church Hall, Harewood Crescent, North Hykeham, Lincoln LN6 8JG. 'All Change at Grantham' by John Clayton. Starts 20.00, £3 entrance. Contact 01522-705365 for further details.

Severn Valley Railway (Wolverhampton)
Old Wulfrunians Club, 253A Castlecroft Road, Castlecroft, Wolverhampton WV3 8NA. 'Moving the Coal' by Terry McCarthy. Starts 19.30. Contact Alan Davies on 01902 758882 for details.

Southern Electric Group (Sussex)
Deall Room, Southwick Community Centre, Southwick. 'More Photographs from the Camera of the Late J.J.Smith of Eastbourne' by Tony Hillman. Starts 19.30. Contact Bruce Cakebread on 01273 462094 for details.

York Railway Circle
Archbishop Holgate's School, Hull Road, York YO10 5ZA. 'Ten Years 1999 - 2009' by Anthony Hicks. Starts 19.30. Contact Robin Patrick on 01904 412232 or at locopatrick@aol.com for further details.

12th April 2011
8E Railway Association
The Gladstone Club, Station Road, Northwich, CW9 5RB. 'Steam in the 60s' by Edgar Richards. Meeting starts at 19.45. Contact Paul Tench on 07790 486735 for fruther details

Great Western Society (Bristol)
BAWA, 589 Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol BS34 7RG. 'The Weston, Clevedon & Portishead Light Railway' by Paul Gregory. Starts 19.45. Visitors welcome. Contact 01454 324230 for further details.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (North London)
2 Stuart Crescent, Wood Green, London N22. 'Kiwi and Kangaroo Rail - visits to New Zealand and Australia 1995 - 2005. by Brian Manktelow. Starts 19.00. Contact Tony Stratford at stratford_tony@hotmail.com.

Monmouthshire Railway Society
Room A10, UWCN City Campus, Usk Way, Newport, S.Wales NP20 2BP. 'An Evening of Stills & DVD Video, J.Clemmens Collection' by Mike Clemmens. Starts 19.15. Admission £3 non-members.

13th April 2011
Permanent Way Institution (Birmingham)
The Gateway Centre, Shrewsbury. 'Section AGM'. Meeting commences at 18.00. Contact the Secretary, Jon Wells on 07714 064898 or at jwells@carillionpic.com for further details.

Swiss Railways Society (London)
The Model Railway Club, Keen House, 4 Calshot Street, London N1 9AT. 'Branch AGM and Supporting Programme'. Starts 19.00. £2 Donation. Contact Ron Dawes on 020 8660 3532 for further details.

14th April 2011
Bath Railway Society
Bath Green Park Station Meeting Room, Bath. 'Yeovil to Oxford... Proposal' by Tim Pearce. 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. 'Cuba Revisited' by Lawrence Marshall. Starts 19.15. Admission £2. Contact Adrian Palmer on 01932 850624 for further details.

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

Locomotive Club of Gt. Britain (St Albans)
United Reform Church, Watford Road, Chiswell Green, Nr St Albans. 'Westwards from Dover; Looking for Steam in 1960' by Peter Groom. Starts 19.30. £2 Donation.

15th April 2011
Great Western Society (Taunton)
Village Hall, Stoke St Mary, nr Taunton TA3 5DE. 'Fun with Southern Steam in the 1960s' by Malcolm Garner. Start 19.30. Visitors welcome. Contact the Secretary on 01823 334188 for further details.

16th April 2011
Great Western Society (South West)
Parish Centre, Church End Road, Kingskerswell, Torbay. 'Archive Cine Film' by Paul Dibbens. Starts 18.30. Visitors welcome. Contact 01803 336329 for further details.

18th April 2011
NYMR (York)
New Earswick Sports & Social Club, White Rose Avenue, York YO32 4AG. 'The Derwent Valley Rly' by J. Stockwell. Starts 19.30. Contact B. Blundell on 01904 764648 for details

21st April 2011
Locomotive Club of Gt Britain (North West)
St David's Social Centre, 249 Wargrave Road, Newton-le-Willows, WA12 8EW. 'Industrials in the Age of Steam' by John Sloane. Starts 19.30. £2 donation. Contact Neville Bond on 01925 226473 for further details.

Marlow & District Railway Society
Bourne End Community Centre, Wakeman Road, Bourne End, SL8 5SX. 'A Tour of South America' by Ron White. Starts 20.00. Admission £3.

22nd April 2011
Shropshire Rly Society
The Gateway, Chester Street, Shrewsbury. 'Society AGM'. Starts 19.30. £3 Donation. Contact the General Secretary on 01743 243295.

28th April 2011
Stevenage Locomotive Society
The Community Arts Centre, Roaring Meg Retail Park, London Road, Stevenage SG1 1XN. 'The Peter Bland Collection Part 1' by Bryan Cross. Starts 19.45. Admission £2. Contact Alan Pitt on 07803 046076 for further details.

29th April 2011
Scarborough Railway Society
Scarborough Library, Vernon Road, Scarborough. 'Talk by a Well Known Engine Driver on the NYMR and elsewhere' by Chris Cubitt. Meeting commences at 19.45.

30th April 2011
Bournemouth Railway Club
Winton Methodist Community Centre, All Purpose Room, Junction Alma Road & Heron Court Road, Winton, Bournemouth BH9 1DE 'Built by Bulleid - Part 2' by Club Members. Starts 19.30. £2 donation. Contact Martyn Thresh on 01202 742099 for further details.

2nd May 2011
North Yorkshire Moors Railway (Northallerton)
Northallerton Town Cricket Club, Farndale Avenue, Northallerton. Members' Evening & End of Season Social. Starts 19.30. Admission £1.50. Contact Ian McInnes on 01642 767233 for further details.

3rd May 2011
Gravesend Railway Enthusiasts Society
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Windmill Street, Gravesent DA12 1BB. 'Bring a Thing 2011' Meeting commences at 19.45. Contact Bob Poole on 01474 326232 for details.

Locomotive & Carriage Institution
55 Broadway, London. 'The Royal Train - An Illustrated Presentation' by Michael Foster. Starts 18.00. Contact Stuart Smith at smithstuart@btinternet.com for further details.

Southern Electric Group (South Hampshire)
Eastleigh Railway Institute, Romsey Road, Eastleigh. 'The Isle of Man' by Keith Burbidge. 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. 'Steam on Road and Rail' by Malcolm Ranieri. Starts 20.00. Contact Lionel Jones on 01934 628289 for further details.

5th May 2011
RCTS (Milton Keynes)
The Crown, Market Square, Stony Stratford MK11 1BE. 'Euston to Bletchley in Steam & Early Diesel Days' by Ron White. Starts 19.30.

Back Issues

All back issues are available on our website, 24 hours a day - visit **www.railwayherald.com** and click on 'Magazine'.

Rear Cover Caption

In full Arriva Trains Wales livery, Class 57/3 No. 57315 approaches Craven Arms on 12th March, with the 10.20 Holyhead to Cardiff 'Rugex' service. Classmate No. 57313 was on the rear.
Phil Trotter

Magazine Information

Editorial Address:
The Railway Herald, PO Box 252, Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire. United Kingdom. DN17 2WY
Telephone: 01904 500175

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