Railway Herald

Issue 261 - 28th March 2011

The weekly railway enthusiast's magazine

Railway Herald

Issue 261
28th March 2011

Editor
Richard Tuplin

Contributing Editor
Brian Morrison

Railtour Editor
John Whitehouse

News Researcher
Bill Turvill

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

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Ron Cover

GBRailfreight launches new interhubGB service

GB Railfreight has launched interhubGB, providing a fully integrated road and rail freight distribution network, linking London and the South East with Manchester and the North West. The internal UK service will initially operate between Barking and Trafford Park.

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Virgin sponsors athletes
Virgin Trains and Alstom have unveiled a new sponsorship initiative 'Supporting British athletes' promoted on the front of Pendolinos.
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RH in the top one million
The latest information on the ranking of worldwide websites has put the *Railway Herald* website in the top one million sites in the world.
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Metro & Light Rail News
New entrance for Stratford Regional, Nottingham gets the green-light for tram extensions, and a new footbridge is installed at West Ham station.
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'Coronation Scot' to return!
The NRM has told *Railway Herald* that 6229 *Duchess of Hamilton* could return sooner rather than later, and with a set of matching stock!
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New share issue for Churnet Valley Railway, the boiler of *Flying Scotsman* goes back in the frames at Bury, GWR locos confirm Battlefield Line's commitment to steam, and Bodmin & Wenford to reopen after trackbed rain damage.

Essentials

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Including comprehensive listings.

Front Cover Caption:

GWR Steam Railmotor No. 93 approaches Glyndyfrdwy from Llangollen while working a photo charter for the 3P20 Parcels Group. The railmotor, which has taken 18 years to restore, will be officially returned to steam at Didcot in late May. David Carr

GBRailfreight announces interhubGB at Barking

GB Railfreight has launched interhubGB, providing a fully integrated road and rail freight distribution network, linking London and the South East with Manchester and the North West.

GBRf held a launch at the Russell Railfreight Terminal, Barking, on 23rd March, which was attended by a large number ofkey people from the industry and media. During the event GBRf named Class 66/7 No. 66731 *interhubGB* to mark the start of the new service, which commences on 28th March.

Services are run by GBRf and 4Rail Logistics and cater for all volumes, from single boxes to multiple or train loads. The interhubGB terminal-to-terminal package offers a rail service between London Barking and Manchester Trafford Park in either direction, every day except Sunday.

interhubGB also offers connections with Europe via the intermodal hub at Dourges, near Lille, with a daily connection to Daventry. The new service forms part of the European strategy GBRf has been developing since its acquisition by Eurotunnel last year.

▲ **Class 66/7 No. 66731 *interhubGB* and Class 92 No. 92032 stand on display at Barking.**

◀ **GBRf Managing Director, John Smith and Marketing and Commercial Director of Russell Railfreight, Ken Russell, stand beside the newly named locomotive on 23rd March.**
Both: Ron Cover

Virgin Rail Group pre-qualifies for new West Coast franchise

Virgin Rail Group (VRG) has successfully pre-qualified to bid for the new West Coast franchise that is expected to start in April next year.

Over the past 14 years, the Group has renewed the entire train fleet, has introduced a high-frequency timetable, and in the past six years, annual passenger numbers have doubled from 14 million to over 28 million.

VRG Chief Executive, Tony Collins, said: "We now look forward to seeing what the Government includes in the tender for the franchise. We intend to submit a very strong bid to retain the West Coast franchise, building on the investment and customer improvements we have made. We have plenty of innovative ideas and look forward to working with local communities along the route, as well as other stakeholders, to develop these plans".

The Invitation to Tender is expected to be published by the Department for Transport in May, with bids due to be submitted in August and a decision on the new franchisee announced in December.

Deutsche Bahn welcomes ERA report supporting the use of distributed power

Deutsche Bahn (DB) has welcomed the report published by the European Railway Agency (ERA) on 22nd March, as an important milestone towards the introduction of ICE trains through the Channel Tunnel.

The report supports plans by the Tunnel Safety Authorities to amend its safety rules that specify the equipment operators can use in the Tunnel. Following the proposed new safety rules, the use of trains with distributed power is no longer prohibited in the Channel Tunnel and no objections were raised about the use of shorter and coupled trains in contrast to today's 400-metre trains with a through corridor.

However, DB says it is currently only half-way to delivering the proposed services from 2013, further work being focused on the characteristics of shorter and coupled trains. Two coupled 200-metre ICE trains were successfully evacuated in October 2010 in the Channel Tunnel, and in addition to that an independent Swiss Engineering Consultancy is currently compiling a risk assessment that will be handed over to the Safety Authorities. This is the same Consultancy that assessed the safety of the longest rail tunnel in the world, the 57km long Gotthard Tunnel in Switzerland.

Due to the positive ERA Report and the ongoing collaboration with the Safety Authorities, DB say that it is optimistic of obtaining clearance for ICE trains by early summer this year and before the August break. Subsequently it expects to start full implementation later this year of the project to connect London to mainland Europe from 2013.

The move would also clear the way for the introduction of Eurostar's proposed Siemens-built e320 trains, which are based around a customised version of the ICE sets.

NXEA loses Greater Anglia franchise

Surprisingly, the short 17-month interim contract for the East Anglia franchise has not been granted as an extension to the existing National Express one, the Department for Transport (DfT) having announced a shortlist of bidders that consists of Go-Ahead, Nederlandse Spoorwegen and Stagecoach.

National Express Group had bid to carry on running the contract, but the fact that the Group relinquished its East Coast franchise in 2009 would seem to have influenced the decision. Quite what the financial savings, incentives or flexibities to the new franchise holder, or the DfT, are by changing the operator for a little over a year are not known, neither is it indicated just what the DfT expects the new holder to achieve in just 17 months. The reasoning for such a short move is to allow time for recommendations to be adopted from the McNulty review, due this year, into value for money on the railway. The new short franchise will start from 5th February 2012.

Northern Rail commemorates work of Jane Tomlinson Appeal

During a short ceremony at Leeds on 22nd March, Northern Rail named one of its Class 158 units *Jane Tomlinson*.

The naming of Class 158 No. 158797 was part of the launch of a new 'Walk For All' festival for which Northern Rail is one of the sponsors. As part of its contribution, the company will be operating additional trains to Settle on 14th August, for the Yorkshire Dales Walking Festival, with money going to the Jane Tomlinson Appeal.

◀ **Jane's widower, Mike Tomlinson, and TV presenter Clare Balding stand beside the newly-named unit at Leeds. Robin Patrick**

▲ **In a short ceremony at Manchester Piccadilly on 24th March, Virgin Trains named a Class 390 Pendolino after squash player, Alison Waters. The Virgin Trains sponsorship initiative 'Supporting British athletes' which is supported by Alstom, enables a number of sportsmen and women to attend training camps and key competitions up and down the country. With the numerous events happening in the run up to the 2012 Games and Glasgow 2014 Commonweath Games the ability to train and take part in competitive events is an important part of these athlete's careers. Alison Waters, currently the British National Squash Champion 2010, and ranked number five in the world, is the first of the 2014 Games' hopefuls to reap the benefits of the sponsorship. The new name, is to be found on the nose of the Pendolino, with the existing cast nameplate on the side of the train remaining in place. Chris Dixon**

▶ **Local poet Alistair Findlay was commissoned by Network Rail to mark the new Bathgate station opening by writing a poem, which will go on display at the station to mark the 25th anniversary of the reopened line. At the media event on 24th March are (l to r) John Sheridan, Radio Clyde, Kirsty Marchant, Station Team Leader, Helen Jarvis, Station Manager, John Yellowlees, First ScotRail External Affairs Manager, Alistair Findlay, Poet, Nicola Cutler, Network Rail Communications Manager, Ann Glen, Author, and John McGinty of West Lothian Council. Bill Wilson**

Railway Herald achieves placement within the top one million websites in the world

Our headline may not seem that startling - but when considering the sheer numbers of websites that are around the world, it is something that we are very proud of.

A reader brought to our attention the positioning on Alexa, part of Amazon.com, which provides rankings for most publically-available webistes across the world. Amazingly the world ranking of our website is 843,814, while specifically within Great Britain we are 24,604.

To put that in perspective, the Bluebell Railway is 1,158,658 (GB 64,462), while Network Rail is 1,851,147 (GB 133,118). In comparison with other UK magazines, *The Railway Magazine* are 5,021,984 in the world, while *Heritage Railway* are 5,333,225. The nearest UK rail journal to *RH*, in terms of web ranking, is the monthly newspaper *RailNews*, which is 2,003,227 in the world and 111,171 within the UK.

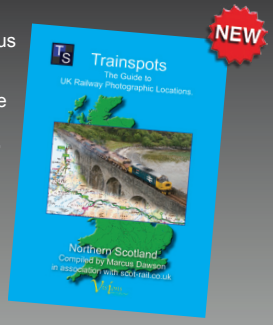
To get where we are is totally due to the support of you, the readers. The readership continues to climb and the feedback received each month is fabulous, showing the commitment that the small team at *Railway Herald* has and the vast amount of time involved in compiling, editing and designing the magazine is valued.

In addition, it may also interest readers to know that the website is on target to see a 50% growth in traffic by the end of April. In December, it was providing around two million web pages a month. The site is currently experiencing continued growth, that should see it deliver over three million pages in April.

Plus, on 27th March, moderators accepted the 60,000th image into the Imaging Centre!

TRAINSPOTS - NORTHERN SCOTLAND

This edition features the northern half of Scotland and provides a valuable aid to all those who like to photograph or observe our railways. Features 68 main locations plus many more additional locations near the main spots. Every location is shown on an Ordnance Survey map and full directions on how to reach it whether it be by car or public transport (we also include sat-nav and map co-ordinates). In addition there are plenty of photos to illustrate the location, helpful details covering what you are likely to see, where to park, local amenities, whether you will need steps to get your shots, the best times of day to photograph from the location and whether you are likely to encounter any grumpy livestock!



Lines Featured:

Inverness - Wick & Thurso
Highland Main Line
Aberdeen-Dundee
Crianlarich - Fort William
The Kyle Line
Inverness - Aberdeen
The Oban Line
The Mallaig Line

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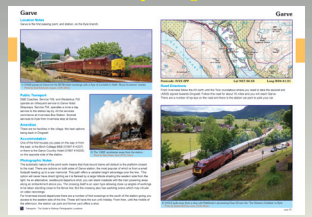

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Borders line meets criteria for funding loan

The Borders Railway project in the south of Scotland has met the eligibility criteria for a loan from the European Investment Bank (EIB) of £100 million, and will now offer the loan to the successful bidder at a rate competitive with private finance.

The procurement process is underway with two bidders – IMCD (Sir Robert McAlpine Ltd, Iridium Concesiones de Infraestructuras SA and Carillion Construction Ltd) and BAM (BAM UK Ltd) currently participating in 'Competitive Dialogue'. A preferred bidder announcement is expected to be made later this year. Transport Scotland approached the EIB in an effort to maximise value for money and this agreement will now secure savings for the public purse by enabling the successful bidder to secure more economical finance, reducing the overall cost of the project to bring back rail services to the area over 40 years after it was closed, re-establishing trains from Edinburgh through Midlothian to Tweedbank. The railway will deliver major economic and social development opportunities and offer fast and efficient travel as an alternative to the congested road network. The project is a key part of the Scottish Government's wider programme of investment in transport infrastructure working towards the sustainable economic growth of Scotland. The Borders Railway is expected to be running passenger services in 2014.

▼ **Class 66/9 No. 66951 passes Ladbrook Lane,Corsham, with the Calvert-Bristol Barrow Road Binliner service on 25th March. This is believed to have been the final run of the train. In the future, the traffic is being moved to an incinerator at Avonmouth by road. Stephen Moore**

Metro and Light Rail News

New entrance opens at Stratford Regional

A new London Underground ticket hall and entrance is now open at Stratford station, designed to help keep Londoners and visitors moving now and during the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The new ticket hall, gate line, extra ticket machines and entrance will make journey times quicker and help reduce congestion at busy times. The new facilities have been funded by the Olympic Delivery Authority and Transport for London, providing a legacy for the Capital, yet delivered well ahead of the Olympics.

The new entrance will make this part of East London one of the best connected areas of the Capital. The bright and spacious modern ticket hall is located on the mezzanine level of the station and provides direct access to the Central Line, which as previously reported also has a new platform for passengers to exit on both sides.

Around 120,000 people are expected to use Stratford station at peak times during the Games.

◀ **The new entrance which has opened at Stratford with links to Westfield shopping centre.**

▼ **The new footbridge installed on 19th/20th March at West Ham. The bridge links District Line platforms with a new exit provided for Olympic traffic in 2012. Both: Kim Rennie**

RAIB publishes findings on LUL derailment

The Rail Accident Investigation Bureau (RAIB) has published its findings on the incident that occurred on 12th May 2010, when the leading wheels of a locomotive that was hauling an engineering train derailed as it was travelling westbound between Gloucester Road and Earls Court stations on the Piccadilly Line of the London Underground.

As a result of the derailment, the locomotive and infrastructure were damaged and the driver reported as suffering from trauma. The westbound Piccadilly Line was closed between the two stations until the start of passenger services the following day, while the locomotive was re-railed and infrastructure repairs undertaken. The report states that the derailment occurred because the track was not able to maintain gauge within safe limits as the train passed over it.

A combination of factors led to this situation occurring, including non-identification and misclassification of track faults not being rectified, no action being taken in response to the identification of dynamic wide gauge at the location of the derailment in the previous months, and there being insufficient staff to maintain the track in good condition.

The RAIB has made nine recommendations, which include changes to how data from asset inspection equipment is presented, an analysis of the tasks involved in track patrolling and inspecting, changes relating to the training and assessment of track patrollers and inspectors, improvements to assurance processes and consideration of the use of available technologies that can assist such staff in recording and classifying track faults.

Funding grant awarded to tram-train project

South Yorkshire has moved a step closer to getting a tram-train system between Sheffield and Rotherham, after the Government granted a further £150,000 to develop the project.

Tram-trains are designed to run on both urban light rail networks such as the Sheffield Supertram and conventional 'heavy' rail tracks, in essence similar to the Tyne & Wear system, where both Metro and National Rail services share the same running lines on parts of the network.

Tram-trains would provide faster journey times, being lighter, more energy efficient and having faster acceleration and deceleration than conventional trains, making them greener and potentially cutting down the need for maintenance works. South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive, Northern Rail and Network Rail will now proceed to carry out further work on the pilot scheme that was first announced in 2009.

If introduced here, the services could deliver three trams per hour all day between Sheffield city centre, the Lower Don Valley, Meadowhall shopping centre, Rotherham Central station and Parkgate retail park, utilising the Supertram network to Meadowhall from where a connection could be made with the existing freight-only route from Rotherham.

Green light for Nottingham Tram extension

Plans to extend the Nottingham tramway have been given the go-ahead by the Government, savings having been identified to make the project more affordable.

The two extensions are planned to go to Chilwell & Beeston and to Clifton, both linking directly into Line One at Nottingham Station.

Edinburgh makes Croydon shortlist

Transport for London has announced the two shortlisted bidders to supply up to 10 more trams to increase services on the Tramlink network.

The bidders, Stadler Pankow GmbH (City of Edinburgh/CAF Stadler) and Pesa (Pojazdy Szynowe PESA Bydgoszcz S.A.Holding), will now be invited to submit proposals to supply the additional vehicles.

If acceptable bids are received, the extra trams could be in service in under a year.

◀ In a relatively rare appearance, Class 60 No. 60084 passes Worcester Tunnel Junction and takes the road into the goods yard, while working a Round Oak to Margam steel service on 24th March. **N. Scott**

◀▼ Class 67 No. 67007 is pictured at Shrewsbury while working a Warrington to Donnington intermodal service. This particular '67' is more commonly based in Scotland, and is believed to have been at Crewe for exam. **Neil Clifton**

▼ Colas Rail Class 47/7 No.47749 *Demelza* passes Stafford on 24th March while working the 09.40 Marcroft Engineering (Stoke-on-Trent) to Long Marston service, conveying a rake of two-axle hopper wagons for store. The locomotive later returned to Washwood Heath. **Ron Cover**

UK Steam & Modern Traction Railtour Listings

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			
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**
VSOE	35028	London Victoria-Virginia Water-Woking-Shalford-Redhill-London Victoria	
2nd April 2011			
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	
Railway Touring Co.	70000	Cleethorpes-Liverpool Lime Street and return	**Cancelled**
Railway Touring Co.	34067	Cleethorpes-Scunthorpe-Huddersfield-Altrincham-Chester-Sheffield-Cleethorpes	
Spitfire Railtours	2xWCRC 37	London Euston-Clapham Jct-Selhurst-East Croydon-Caterham-Crystal Palace-Guildford-Motspur Park-London Waterloo-Redhill-Littlehampton-Ealing Broadway	
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	
Vintage Trains	4965 & 5043	Tyseley Warwick Road-Worcester SH-Kemble-Swindon-Didcot Parkway & return	
7th April 2011			
Steam Dreams	70000	Oxford-Reading-Slough-Kensington Olympia-Canterbury West & return	
9th April 2011			
NENTA Traintours	2xWCRC 47	Norwich-Ipswich-Ely-Peterborough-Darlington-Shildon-Stanhope-Eastgate & return	
Pathfinder Tours	tbc	Cardiff Central-Chepstow-Kemble-Bournemouth-Poole-Swanage & return	
Railway Touring Co.	70013	London King's Cross-Peterborough-Spalding-Skegness-London King's Cross	
Statesman Rail	tbc	Ely-Peterborough-Doncaster-Leeds-Hellifield-S&C-Carlisle & return	
Vintage Trains	6201	Tyseley WR-Coleshill Parkway-Loughborough-Uttoxeter-Alsager-Chester & return	
13th April 2011			
Compass Tours	2xWCRC 47	Crewe-Liverpool Lime St-Wigan North Western-Shap-Beattock-Mossend-Cumbernauld-Forth Bridge-Dundee-Cowdenbeath-Longannet-Alloa-Stirling-Mossend-Carstairs-Beattock-Carlisle and return as outwards	
Steam Dreams	34067	Basingstoke-Reading-Hampstead Heath-Finsbury Park-Lincoln & return	
15th April 2011			
Compass Tours	2xWCRC 47	Blackpool-Blackburn-Hebden Bridge-York-ECML-Dalmeny-Dundee & return	
16th April 2011			
Railway Touring Co.	60019 & 60007	London King's Cross-York-Newcastle-Edinburgh Waverley	
Statesman Rail	tbc	Gloucester-Kidderminster-Wolverhampton-Hellifield-S&C-Carlisle & return	
Steam Dreams	6201	London Euston-Rugby-Lichfield Trent Valley-Stafford-Crewe-Chester & return	
UK Railtours	tbc	Woking-Finsbury Park-York-Gainsborough Lea Road-Sleaford-Peterborough-Woking	
Vintage Trains	5043	Tyseley WR-Crewe-Huddersfield-Copy Pit-Warrington BQ-Crewe-Tyseley WR	

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.

Railtour Spotlight

by John Whitehouse

A distinct Southern flavour runs through the coming week's steam tours with both *Tangmere* and *Clan Line* in action, although not necessarily exclusively on Southern metals.

Both locomotives are in action in the South East, with No. 34067 for RTC on 30th March on a 'Sussex Belle' from London Victoria to Appledore and Hastings, and No. 35028 for VSOE on the British Pullman around the Surrey Hills on 1st April. However, the following day's 'Cheshireman' for RTC is probably the steam working of the week, featuring *Tangmere* from Cleethorpes to Chester, outwards over Standedge, and back by way of the Hope Valley. In contrast to the planned operation, *Tangmere* is now at the helm for all of the return journey through to the Lincolnshire resort - making a pleasant change to the normal method of working.

An ex-Great Western double-header is also worthy of note, especially as it includes the assault on Sapperton Bank, both on the outward and return journey to Didcot. The locomotives for the 'Coronation Express' are Tyseley's No. 4965 *Rood Ashton Hall* and 'Castle' 4-6-0 No. 5043 *Earl of Mount Edgcumbe*, the 'Coronation' of the train title referring to the public unveiling of the 'Blue King' No. 6023 *King Edward II* at Didcot that same weekend.

Non-steam workings feature strongly, with UK Railtours heading for the Staffordshire Moorlands, although unfortunately the journey is not, as yet, rail throughout. Road coaches will transfer passengers from Stoke-on-Trent to the Churnet Valley Railway's southern terminus at Kingsley & Froghall, for a return working to Cauldon Lowe. The charter itself has an interesting itinerary, working north via the West Coast Main Line to reach Stoke-on-Trent by way of a now rare locomotive-hauled working between Colwich Junction and Stone. The return initially heads north to Stockport, via Crewe and Middlewich, before turning east for the Hope Valley and Erewash Valley routes back to the East Coast Main Line at Peterborough. Class 67s will feature.

Meanwhile, Pathfinder's 'Humber Explorer' has DBS Class 60 power booked for the section of the tour east from Toton through to Cleethorpes, which also has the option of making an off-train visit to the internal system at the massive Tata Steelworks at Scunthorpe, where the Appleby-Frodingham Railway Preservation Society operate excursions around the private network.

Spitfire had ambitions to run back-to-back charters, which visited many branches around London that are rare for locomotive haulage and the South East. Unfortunately, operating issues have caused the postponement of 'Routes & Branches 1', the overnight charter until 15th July, but 'Routes & Branches 2' from Euston to Ealing Broadway, via the South Coast will go ahead as planned with 'top and tail' West Coast Class 37s.

Last, but far from being least, is a new twist on the classic Central Wales itinerary from Rail Blue. Yes, it is calling at Llandrindod Wells, and yes, it is calling at Cardiff. So what is new, you may ask? Well, it can truly be called a land cruise, as outwards from Watford Junction it picks up along the WCML to Nuneaton, then meanders through Sutton Park and onwards, via Wolverhampton and Telford, as part of the classic route to Craven Arms, gateway to the Central Wales Line. On the way back, instead of taking the more predictable route along the Welsh Marches, the tour heads along the Great Western Main Line through Swindon and Reading, to reach Watford Junction from the south, and then sets down northwards to Nuneaton. So, all passengers have the chance to travel over the full itinerary, regardless of their joining point!

Full details on all known charters for the coming months can be found on our website

Cowboys and Pirates to Buxton with UK Railtours, not forgetting 'The Severnsider'!

Take a look at the UK Railtours programme; it is well worth a second glance.

In the past, UKR has gained an enviable reputation of particularly serving the East Coast corridor from King's Cross, via Potters Bar, Stevenage and Peterborough with trains mainly aimed at the general tourist market. This has been its strength, especially with John Farrow's expertise dating back to the Hertfordshire Railtours days, and even, maybe, earlier to the old LNER Society outings.

But for 2011, UKR is back into the enthusiast market in a big way, particularly through its 'Forgotten Tracks' brand. For instance, 'The Severnsider' on 2nd July, serves Bath and Bristol for the general market, and also heads into rural Gloucestershire to visit the freight-only branches to Sharpness (for Berkeley Nuclear Power Station), then onto Westerleigh, before doubling back to Tytherington Quarry. The tour sets out from Stevenage, and picks up at Welwyn Garden City, Potters Bar, Finsbury Park and Reading.

However, that is not all, as on 20th August, UKR becomes the second tour operator this year to go down the freight-only line from Buxton to Hindlow with the 'The Limestone Cowboy'. It originates at Euston, and picks up at Watford Junction, Milton Keynes Central, Rugby and Crewe, before heading for Buxton, via Sandbach, Middlewich, Altrincham, Northenden Junction, New Mills and Chinley, returning to Crewe by way of Romiley, Manchester Victoria and Earlestown. A further highlight is that the tour is booked for DBS Class 92 haulage each way between Euston and Crewe, with a DBS Class 66 covering the non-electrified sections to and from Buxton.

The Bodmin and Wenford Railway's Steam Gala is the feature of the excursion on 3rd September, which also has options to visit either Padstow or the Lost Gardens of Heligan, should for some unexplained reason, your good lady not fancy a day roaming Cornwall behind a Drummond Class T9. This tour sets out from Paddington, and travels via the Berks & Hants route, setting down at Bodmin Parkway and Par.

UKR has not forgotten the general tourist market, however. On 30th July, the National Trust's half-timbered property at Little Moreton Hall, or an afternoon matinee with Gilbert & Sullivan's 'Pirates of Penzance' at Buxton's Opera House offer something really different for the discerning passenger, using Macclesfield as railhead. It picks up from London St Pancras, Luton Airport Parkway and Kettering. On a similar theme, Southampton Docks and a River Hamble cruise are on offer on 22nd July, or if the P&O liners *Oriana* and *Azura* do not light your fire, then maybe the alternative visit to Exbury Gardens and narrow gauge railway will. The tour is from London Victoria to Eastleigh, via Virginia Water and Woking, returning by way of Havant, Fareham and Guildford.

On 27th August, the Llandrindod Wells Victorian Festival is visited, starting again from Paddington, the train picking up at Slough, Reading and Didcot, and travelling through the Severn Tunnel and over the Swansea District Line. On the return, the train is routed via the West Midlands and Oxford.

Planned HST drag for Mid-Norfolk gala brings charity EMT excursion to Wymondham and Norwich

Saturday 14th May is a special day for East Midland Trains and the Mid-Norfolk Railway, because the latter will be holding its diesel gala weekend, while the former will be running a railtour to that gala with proceeds going to the Railway Children Charity.

The charter service will be formed by one of the East Midlands Trains-liveried HSTs, which hopefully will include Class 43 powercar No. 43082 in the set - that powercar carrying the name of the charity. The tour runs from St Pancras, picking up at Luton Airport Parkway, Kettering and Leicester, before proceeding to the Mid-Norfolk, via Oakham, Peterborough, March, Ely (reverse), Thetford and Wymondham. The HST will traverse the heritage railway branch from Wymondham Abbey to Dereham during an anticipated three-hour stay, as well as being involved with the gala where it is believed it will undertake a further round trip while being hauled by Class 37 and Class 50 locomotives.

All East Midlands Trains staff are giving their time free of charge, and bookings are being taken by UK Railtours, which will be covering the cost of credit card commission and postage. Already the train is filling well with First Class fully booked and around 60 seats remaining in Standard Class.

To-date £16,000 has been raised for the charity, and the intention is to try to push this figure past the £20,000 mark. The Standard fare is £47.50 (junior £37.50) and provides a rare chance to travel by HST into East Anglia, as well as giving the opportunity to be able to sample the Mid-Norfolk's 'Drags and Rescues Gala'. As a bonus, the train continues for a photo stop at Norwich, where HSTs are very rare visitors, before returning to St Pancras by way of the Ely North curve.

To book, contact UK Railtours on 01438 715050 or go online to www.ukrailtours.com

▼ **DBS Class 67s Nos. 67021 and 67017 power through Grendon on the West Coast Main Line, with UK Railtours London Euston to Bangor charter on 19th March. John Whitehouse**

▲ **LMS 'Princess Royal' Pacific No. 6201** *Princess Elizabeth* **passes Casey Lane, on the outskirts of Crewe, while working 'light engine' and support coach from Tyseley. Frank Richards**

Ups & Downs

■ Rail Blue has been appointed as official booking agent for Bolton Wanderers FC for the special supporter's club charter to Wembley for the FA Cup semi-final against Stoke City on 17th April. It will be a busy weekend for football specials from the North-West, as in addition to Bolton Wanderers and Stoke City, the other semi-finalists are the two Manchester clubs, with United and City meeting the previous day, 16th April. Other news from Rail Blue is that the AC Locomotive Group's Class 86/1 No. 86101 *Sir William A Stanier* looks set to haul its 6th May Watford Junction to Edinburgh Waverley charter, and the redated December train from London Euston to Glasgow Central, postponed due to the adverse weather, which it is understood will run on 6th August, and will be a memorial working for Rail Blue Director, Mark Honey, who died late last year.

■ The main line steam scene has gained another charter operator, albeit an established player in the heritage and modern traction sector, Spitfire Railtours. On 1st June the company has 'The Settle & Carlisle Flyer' from Worcester Shrub Hill, picking up diesel-hauled at Droitwich Spa, Tamworth High Level, Burton-upon-Trent, Derby and Chesterfield to Hellifield, where steam takes over for the last leg to Carlisle, via Appleby.

■ The West Coast Company has confirmed that it will once again be operating its Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays-only 'Scarborough Spa Express' this year. It is also sticking with the 'new' route implemented last year, which is from York, picking up at Normanton, Wakefield Kirkgate and Westgate, Woodlesford and Castleton, prior to returning to York and then onwards to Scarborough. The train is booked to operate from 19th July until 1st September, and an announcement concerning the locomotive pool will follow. Details are now awaited of the plans for this year's 'Cambrian' operation, which of course is dependent upon finding a working solution to enable the train to operate under the new ERTMS signalling system, which is now 'live' along the Cambrian route.

VINTAGE TRAINS

THE CORONATION EXPRESS

Saturday 2nd April 2011

The 2nd of April will be a red letter day that no true Great Western enthusiast will want to miss, when our great 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 Great Western Hall 4965 "Rood Ashton Hall and Ex-Great Western Castle 5043 "Earl of Mount Edgcumbe". Our route starts at Tyseley Warwick Road, through Birmingham, Worcester, Cheltenham and Gloucester. After watering at Gloucester, we head up the spectacular Golden Valley to the summit of the line at Sapperton tunnel, before descending to the locomotive's birth place at Swindon, then on to Brunel's famous Great Western main line for the 24 mile final stretch to Didcot, home of the Great Western Society.

Please note: Admission tickets for 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

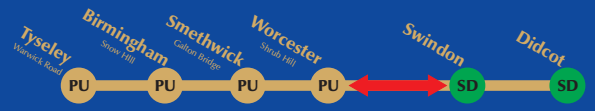
Includes a full English breakfast and a traditional 3-course dinner.
Tables for two in First Class and Premier Dining : £20 per table (£10 per person extra)

TO BOOK CONTACT VINTAGE TRAINS

0121 708 4960

OR FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.vintagetrains.co.uk



The early morning sun captures Battle of Britain class Pacific No. 34067 approaching Gatwick Airport on 19th March on the empty coaching stock trip from Southall to Three Bridges, prior to working 'The Bath and Bristol' charter. **Andrew Crampton**

Class 31/4 No. 31454 leads Class 31/6 No. 31601 through Chapeltown on the Sheffield to Barnsley line, with Rail-Blue Charters' 'Whitby Jet' railtour from Leicester on 25th March. **Christopher Saxby**

NEW PUBLIC SHARE ISSUE

CHURNET VALLEY RAILWAY

The Churnet Valley Railway is bidding to create the UK's biggest heritage railway network. We already attract 75,000 visitors each year and can now offer a 27-mile round trip through fabulous Staffordshire Moorlands scenery. Now we have exciting plans to improve facilities and expand services into Leek and as far as Stoke.

Our latest share issue opens on Wednesday March 30 and gives the public the chance to take a stake in railway expansion in the Staffordshire Moorlands.

AIMS OF THE SHARE ISSUE

Purchase of shareholding in Moorland & City Railways Limited

- Connecting to the national network at Stoke, plans for new station at Leek and passenger services to Alton Towers.

Construction of catering hub at Cheddleton Station

- With new refreshment room and community facilities.

SPECIAL SHARE LAUNCH EVENT

10am, Wednesday March 30
Kingsley & Froghall Station

Trains to Cauldon Lowe at 10.30am & 1pm – buy shares on the day and travel free

SHAREHOLDER BENEFITS

- **Free travel benefits and service discounts**
- **Tax allowances for investments over £500 - tax relief now increased to 30% in the Budget**
- **Enhanced benefits for applications received before May 3, 2011**

OBTAIN A PROSPECTUS NOW

Full details of the issue are contained in our detailed share prospectus. To receive a copy:

- **Call** 01538 758490 (for share information)
- **Email** your name and address to shares@churnet-valley-railway.co.uk
- **Write** to Churnet Valley Railway (1992) plc, Kingsley & Froghall Station, Froghall, Staffordshire ST10 2HA

NRM says that *Duchess of Hamilton* and 'Coronation Scot' train could be set for main line return

The prospects of the now streamlined ex-LMS 'Princess Coronation' Stanier Pacific No. 6229 *Duchess of Hamilton* **returning to the main line in the foreseeable future have taken a significant upward turn following the publication of a letter sent by the Director of the National Railway Museum, Steve Davies, to past members of The 229 Club.**

The Club was set up in 1980 to support the first overhaul of the then No. 46229, and has remained in existence and supported the second overhaul as well as making a significant financial contribution to the cost of re-streamlining the locomotive. The members commit a monthly sum to the cause, historically it has been £10, which over the years has provided a major source of income towards the upkeep of *Duchess of Hamilton*.

The official NRM line has been that any potential return to steam for No. 6229 would not be before 2018, but it now seems that the Museum is taking a long strategic look into the future, and especially at the period when its flagship locomotive No. 4472 *Flying Scotsman* approaches the latter part of its boiler certificate. The 'A3' is due to re-enter traffic this year, which means that its boiler certificate clock is already ticking.

In the letter, Steve Davies acknowledges that the often asked question is when will No. 6229 be steamed, and interestingly, he specifically adds that he is personally supportive of restoring the 'Duchess' to operating condition 'at some stage'. He sees that his role is to ensure that the conditions enable the restoration to be an easy decision and, unsurprisingly, finance will play a major role in the calculation. What follows, though, gives the clearest indication of intent when he says: "I am not at this stage forecasting a date for her resurrection. What I am doing is indicating that this might be sooner than people think".

"Sooner than people think" is a seismic comment, and one that is guaranteed to create the groundswell to start the project. Hence the appeal to lapsed members of The 229 Club to re-engage, as it would certainly now seem that the only thing standing between *Duchess of Hamilton* and the main line is cash!

And that is not all. On speaking to Helen Ashby, the NRM's Head of Knowledge and Collections, she emphasised there is now the will within the NRM for the main line return of No. 6229 to happen, subject to funding being available, and of course Network Rail approval. Concerning the latter, it is understood that when the streamlining project was complete, Tyseley Locomotive Works went to great pains to ensure that the locomotive was 'in gauge'. However, Helen also added that as well as overhauling the locomotive, the thinking of the NRM is also to rebrand a rake of coaches into the 'Coronation Scot' livery, so that not only do we get the locomotive, but also the train!

What an image this would be; the prospect of the 'Coronation Scot' charging through your local station has to be a marketing man's dream. The imagery would be just perfect, and could be of such impact that not only would the train compete equally with the VSOE British Pullmans in the leisure industry, but would also be an enthusiasts dream come true. And then there is the corporate market. If one needs to make an impression, then what would be better than the 'Coronation Scot'?

Hopefully, all this is in the future, and to ensure that it happens the finance needs to be in place. As well as making an appeal to past members, The 229 Club will welcome new members, and this is the perfect way of lending your support to the project. It is run through the Friends of the National Railway Museum, and as stated before is based on members making a monthly contribution of £10, which is used exclusively to support *Duchess of Hamilton*. To find out more about please write to Dr. John S. Rule, Secretary, The 229 Club, c/o Friends of the NRM at Leeman Road, York, YO26 4XJ, or email johnsrule@hotmail.com .

Duchess of Hamilton is both an historic and lucky locomotive. It is historic in that it was displayed at the New York World's Fair in 1939 (masquerading as sister locomotive No. 6220 Coronation), and toured the Eastern States prior to being stored in Baltimore due to the onset of war. The loco avoided German U-Boats on the return to this country in 1942, and after regaining its true identity, enjoyed an uneventful career with the LMS and later British Railways until withdrawal in February 1964. This is when 'Lady Luck' intervened, as the trip to the breaker's yard was avoided when it was acquired by Billy Butlin along with other ex-LMS locos for display at his holiday camps, which at that time were at their peak of their popularity. The loco went to Butlins at Minehead, and for the next decade was at the mercy of the salty sea air. Rescue number two came in 1975, when the then new National Railway Museum took over custody, and with the help of The 229 Club, restored *Duchess of Hamilton* to the main line for the first time in 1980. After a notable second main line career spanning five years, during which time, the 'Duchess' put in some simply stunning performances, especially on the Settle & Carlisle route. A third main line career followed between 1989 and 1996, after which a further period of static display ensued, leading up to the momentous decision to re-streamline the locomotive, which was undertaken by Tyseley Locomotive Works between 2006 and 2009.

▼ **What a sight a streamlined** *Duchess of Sutherland* **would make climbing Shap in the 21st Century! Currently the focus of a special 'Streamline' exhibition at the NRM, No. 6229 stands in the National Railway Museum. John Whitehouse**

Visiting GWR locomotives confirm Battlefield line's commitment to steam

It is good to see the gathering momentum at the Battlefield Line, which after having kept a low profile over the last few years is now showing distinct signs of progress.

There is no better evidence than at Market Bosworth, the mid-station on the line, which reopened last weekend after a closure of more than 80 years. It is an important station on the line, as the attractive market town is nearby, and importantly the near impossible parking problem has been solved with now ample space available at the head of Station Drive, next to the goods shed.

There are big plans for the location, which will provide a major boost for the line, which in recent times has perhaps been better known as an excellent enclave for diesel traction, and the diesel galas there have rated among the best in the land.

However, a commitment to steam haulage has been emphasised by the hiring in of two locomotives, GWR 2800 Class 2-8-0 No. 3803 and GWR Prairie 2-6-2T No. 5524, both of which made a debut at last week's steam gala, and are due to remain on the line for a couple of months.

Reports indicate that both the attendance and resulting revenue was in excess of expectations.

▶ **On 19th March, GWR 2800 Class No. 3803 rounds the curve away from Market Bosworth with a Shackerstone-bound train. John Whitehouse**

▲ **Andrew Barclay 0-4-0ST No. 1964, carrying NCB colours, departs from Chasewater Heaths station with a demonstration mineral train bound for Chasetown Church Street on 19th March. Frank Lees**

New Churnet Valley Railway share issue launched

The Churnet Valley Railway's (CVR) proposed new share issue will be officially launched on 30th March at Kingsley & Froghall station, and aims to raise £400,000.

The reason for the share issue is to allow the CVR to acquire a stake in Moorlands & City Railways (MCR), which owns the line from the railway's boundary at Leekbrook Junction to Cauldon Lowe.

The share issue is designed to cement the CVR's relationship with MCR, which in turn will use the funds towards reopening the line west from Leekbrook Junction to Stoke-on-Trent. Strategically, this provides a main line connection that will move the ambition of both organisations of creating a freight flow from the quarry at Cauldon Low a step forward. It also provides access to the Churnet Valley for main line charters, which will certainly enhance its business. The CVR will also use some of the funds to create new catering and community facilities at Cheddleton, enhancing the visitor facilities.

The reopened line over the Staffordshire Moorlands has been well received, particularly among the local community, and MCR's plans to both reconnect Leek and Alton Towers to an enlarged Moorlands railway network are seen as key components for the future economic development of the area.

Copies of the share prospectus will be available on the day, and potential investors will have the opportunity to buy shares, and in addition to other incentives, will immediately get a free return trip to Cauldon Lowe on one of two special workings that will run on the day. Departures are at 10.30 and 13.00, and are scheduled to be 'topped & tailed' by GWR Prairie No. 5199 and a diesel. Each share will have a nominal value of £1, and will be available in any amount from £100 upwards. Depending on the level of investment, added benefits ranging from a ticket on the first train to Stoke-on-Trent to lifetime passes will be available to shareholders. There is also an enhanced package of benefits available on share purchases made before 3rd May.

To obtain a copy of the share prospectus contact the Churnet Valley Railway on 01538 758490 or email shares@churnet-valley-railway.co.uk. Full details will also be posted on the website.

Bodmin & Wenford reopens after rain damage

The 6.5 mile-long Bodmin & Wenford Railway should be back in business from 26th March, after heavy rain caused siginificant damage to its trackbed.

The problem arose overnight on 16th/17th Novmember, when 50mm of rainfall was recorded at Cardinham, near Bodmin, which washed away part of the track formation. The flood water is believed to have poured directly onto the railway from immediately beside the A38 road bridge that crosses the line.

Following agreement with the railways insurers, which are covering a substantial amount of the total repair cost, KGJ Price of South Wales was contracted to carry out the required repairs. This work started in early March and is on target for completion within the planned four-week window.

The railway is now gearing up for its Spring Steam Spectacular event on 8th-11th April, one of the star attractions of which will be traditional GWR Autocoach No. 232. The vehicle was originally purchased for preservation by the Dart Valey Light Railway, before being sold to the Bodmin & Wenford Railway Trust in 2008, which has undertaken an extensive overhaul of the vehicle. Autocoach No. 232 will be paired with GWR 6400 Class Pannier No. 6435 during the event. Also in traffic will be LSWR T9 Class 4-4-0 No. 30120, Beattie 2-4-0WT No. 30587, GWR 4500 Class No. 5552 and GWR 5700 Class 0-6-0PT No. 4612.

For Pannier Tank No. 4612, the gala will be its last appearance at a special event for some time, as its 10-year boiler certificate expires in May. It retains its British Railways unlined black livery.

Despite best efforts to have the new signalling system at Bodmin General reinstated and commissioned for the event, allowing the B&WR to operate a two-train service, it has not been possible to complete final testing and certification in time.

A 'Fish & Chip' supper will operate on the Saturday evening, with an all inclusive price of £19.95 for adults, or £9.95 for children, although advance booking is required. Standard Day and Weekend Rover tickets are available throughout the gala weekend.

Preservation News In Brief

■ The Bramley Line Heritage Railway Trust, which is aiming to restore the Wisbech to March line has received permission from Network Rail to develop the old sidings at Waldersea, towards the northern end of the route, so that it can accommodate and begin to restore rolling stock. The trust is hoping to develop the old goods yard as an engineering and storage base for the proposed line, prior to commencing the legal stages to restore a passenger service over the first section of the route.

■ Did you lose a **remote control for a camera** on the Great Central Railway on 26th March? One was found and handed to a member of the editorial team at the end of the day - if you think it may be yours, call us on 01904 500175.

■ The North Norfolk Railway has announced that David Shepherd's Class 9F No. 92203 *Black Prince* will be moving to Sheringham in May for an 'extended stay'. Unconfirmed reports indicate that this may be for the remaining three years of its boiler ticket. A further factor may be that due to the landslip problems on the G-WR, meaning the loco would be unlikely to see much use in the foreseeable future.

BODMIN & WENFORD
RAILWAY

SPRING STEAM SPECTACULAR

Fri-Mon 8-11 April

Featuring the public debut of our Great Western Railway auto train
(64xx 0-6-0PT 6435 + trailer 232)

Five locomotives in action
4612, 5552, 6435, 30120, 30587

4612 in BR black—its last gala appearance prior to overhaul

Intensive timetable on all 4 days

All trains steam hauled

Friday evening Auto Train special

Saturday evening Fish & Chip train

Make a weekend of it...
...3-4 Day Adult Rover costs just £27

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▲ **The £1.6 million overhaul of Gresley A3 class Pacific No. 4472** *Flying Scotsman* **has moved a step closer with the boiler being reunited with the frames at the works of Riley and Son at Bury. The move means that the 'A3' is now well on its way back to steam. Once work is complete at Bury, it will move back to the NRM in time for a public roll-out in North Eastern wartime black livery over 28th-30th May, during which time the Pacific will be displayed on the turntable. Over the following weeks,** *Flying Scotsman* **will undertake its steam tests and commissioning runs, still in wartime black livery, prior to being repainted into the LNER apple green colour scheme and being displayed throughout August in the NRM's Great Hall, where visitors will be able to access the cab. Chris Dixon**

Heritage Focus : Whats coming up, where and when?

The coming weekend sees the public unveiling of the blue-liveried 'King' at the Didcot Railway Centre, for which a special day is behind held on 2nd April.

The loco, soon to be main line registered, carries the stunning experimental British Railways blue livery of the early 1950s, which will certainly clearly distinguish it from classmate No. 6024 *King Edward I*. The official launch will take place at 13.00 on 2nd April by Steve Davies, Director of the National Railway Museum. The centre will also have GWR 5300 Class 2-6-0 No. 5322 and GWR 5700 Class 0-6-0PT No. 3650 in steam, in addition to which, Tyseley-based 'Castle' No. 5043 *Earl of Mount Edgcumbe* and 'Hall' No. 4965 *Rood Ashton Hall*, will be serviced on the depot after arriving with Vintage Trains' 'Coronation Express' charter from Tyseley - for which tickets remain available.

The Nene Valley Railway will be operating a mixed traffic gala on 2nd/3rd April with Class 40 No. D306 and Class 31/1 No. 31108 joining in with the steam fleet, consisting of Hunslet 0-6-0T No. 3844 and Polish 0-8-0T No. 5485, together with Class 4F 0-6-0 No. 44422 and Standard Class 5MT 4-6-0 No. 73050.

Also from 28th-31st March, the South Devon Railway will be operating its 'From Autos to Railcars' event.

What colour for 6233? You decide

It is beginning to look like the 'competition' to decide the livery that *Duchess of Sutherland* **will carry for the first 12 months after it returns to main line service is swiftly becoming a two-horse race.**

The latest voting figures show that British Railways express lined-green (or Brunswick green to most people) has captured 479 votes, representing 42% of the total votes cast as at 20th March, and is opening a gap from the nearest challenger, BR-blue, which has attracted 355 votes, or 31% of the total number cast. These two now have distinct clear water between them and third place, LMS crimson lake, which at 233 votes has only 21% of the votes cast. In last place is Ivatt black attracting little attention with just 6% of the ballot to-date, amassing a mere 63 votes.

Of course, LMS crimson lake will win in the end, as it is the default livery for the remaining years of the new main line ticket, although there are many who do hope that this is transmuted into the latter BR version (one that the locomotive never carried) and the running number of 46233.

To register your vote, you can telephone 0904 161, adding 9901 for LMS crimson lake, 9902 for BR Brunswick green, 9903 for BR-blue or 9904 for Ivatt black. For details of call charges, please see the terms and conditions quoted on PRCLT's website.

▶ **Class 47/4 No. 47580** *County of Essex* **passes through Crownthorpe in glorious spring sunshine with the 09.00 Dereham to Wymondham service on 19th March, during the Mid-Norfolk Railway's 'diesel gala' weekend.**
Gary Thomas

▼ **The East Lancashire Railway held a DMU Day on 19th March. One pairing was Class 121 DTS No. 56289 and Class 122 DMBS No. 55001, the duo being pictured at Ramsbottom with the 11.51 departure for Bury & Heywood.**
Steve Kemp

▶▼ **Visiting LNER J72 Class 0-6-0T No. 69023 runs round its train at Nunnery Junction on the Colne Valley Railway, during the opening day of the season, 20th March. This locomotive is due to stay at the Colne Valley for six weeks.**
Sally Halls

◀ DRS Class 37/4 No 37409 *Lord Hinton* propels Inspection Saloon No. 975025 across the Cremorne Viaduct over the River Thames at Chelsea on 15th March. **Ken Brunt**

▼ DBS Class 66/0 No. 66096 crosses the River Avon at Eckington, Worcestershire, on 25th March, with a Margam-Redcar service formed of empty HTA wagons. **Jack Boskett**

Back on the fastline?

After months of storage at Crewe Gresty Bridge, following the collapse of Fastline Freight, the five Class 66/3s look to have a more secure future, after the past week saw the use of three of them on DRS services.

▶ Class 66/4 No. 66422 and Class 66/3 No. 66303 pass Eckington, Worcestershire, with the return working of the Bridgewater flask train on 24th March. **Jack Boskett**

▼ Class 66/3 No. 66301 approaches Wychnor Junction on 25th March, while working the Stockton to Cardiff steel scrap working for DRS. This locomotive, together with No. 66304 had previously worked from Crewe to York, 'light engine'. **John Whitehouse**

Virgin Trains Class 390 No. 390004 *Alstom Pendolino* **sporting Alstom branding, shatters the silence along the Grand Union canal at Northchurch as it heads south towards its destination of London Euston on 19th March. Edward Gleed**

WCRC Class 47/7 No. 47760 passes the semaphore signals of Pantyffynnon, on the Central Wales line, with the return leg of a private charter from Haverfordwest to Carnforth on 19th March. **Phil Trotter**

While on 'Thunderbird' duties with National Express East Anglia, DRS Class 47/4 No. 47832 *Solway Princess* awaits a call to action at Colchester, as the last vehicle of a 12-car Class 321 formation arrives on shed. **Phil Wallis**

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, Gravesent 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, Gravesent 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.

▼ Class 66/0 No. 66006 passes Sydney Gardens, Bath, with the Fawley-Tavistock Junction tanks on 22nd March. This location will change later this year when lineside fencing is erected. Stephen Moore

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

Leaving an early morning mist behind, an unidentified Virgin Trains' Class 390 Pendolino speeds northwards towards Milton Keynes, pictured on 19th March, south of Leighton Buzzard, on the West Coast Main Line.
Roger Brown

Magazine Information

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

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