Railway Herald

Issue 262 - 4th April 2011

The weekly railway enthusiast's magazine

Railway Herald

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4th April 2011

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Jack Boskett

Royalty roams the rails as *King Edward II* returns

More than 30 years after the locomotive left Barry as little more than a rusting hulk of metal, with one set of driving wheels sliced through by the cutters torch, *King Edward II* has returned to steam at the Didcot Railway Centre

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Front Cover Caption:

All hail the new King! During a special photographic evening, No. 6023 *King Edward II* stands beside the shed building at Didcot. It was officially returned to traffic the following day by the head of the NRM, Steve Davies MBE.
Jack Boskett

▲ The crossovers at Hitchin that cause some of the delay to higher speed services on the ECML. The new flyover, once constructed, will alleviate the requirement for services to Cambridge to cross the ECML on the level. A pair of Class 365s arrive at Hitchin from Cambridge. **Network Rail**

Green light given for Hitchin flyover

Transport Secretary Philip Hammond has approved Network Rail's scheme to remove a major bottleneck at Hitchin, enabling quicker journeys and more trains on the line between London, Cambridge and King's Lynn.

Currently, trains travelling from King's Cross have to cross three other lines to switch between the East Coast Main Line and the line to Cambridge. This reduces capacity for other services and makes the railway less reliable when delays occur.

The new rail link comprises approximately two kilometres of electrified single-track, and will be constructed on a combination of viaduct and embankment, joining the Cambridge branch line at Stotfold Road, near Letchworth, and will avoid the current problems by taking the line to Cambridge over the ECML.

The go-ahead for the Hitchin link comes in the same week that Network Rail announced it had received more than £2 million of private investment to improve and expand the main ticket hall at Cambridge station and only weeks before work starts to boost capacity at the station with the addition of two new platforms and a fully-accessible footbridge with lifts.

The new platforms are crucial to National Express East Anglia's plans to improve services and provide more seats on the line to Liverpool Street this year, with the introduction of new, longer trains in December.

Work on the Hitchin rail link is planned to start later this year, with trains able to run on the new line in early 2014.

Full ERTMS implementation comes to the Cambrian

The area covered by the first implementation of the European Rail Traffic Monitoring System (ERTMS) has been extended from the the initial Harlech to Pwllheli section.

The system went live on the Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth and Machynlleth to Harlech sections from 30th March, although services suffered teething problems in the few days.

Rail services were replaced by road coaches between 26th/27th March, to allow final commissioning and also the operation of test services, prior to a return to normal traffic from 28th March. Unfortunately, all did not go according to plan with the ERTMS system suffering what Network Rail calls 'teething problems'. A Network Rail spokesperson told *Railway Herald* that the system was new technology and that teething problems such as those encountered were to be expected, although such comment would likely be of little consolation to passengers on some services that were upwards of 40 minutes late, or terminated short of their destination!

The infrastructure operator says that the system is under observation, part of which will allow the problems to be sorted out and "just because the system is live does not mean that the job is finished". The whole of the ERTMS implementation, which has taken over from the older Radio-Electronic Token Block (RETB) system on the Cambrian, is overseen from the control centre at Machynlleth. ERTMS is a computer-based signalling system that is formed of two key components, the European Train Control System (ETCS) which replaces the TPWS or automatic train protection system, and GSM-R which provides a digital radio system for the transmission of voice and data communications between the track, the train and the control system.

Depending upon the signalling requirements, ERTMS has three different levels of implementation. Level 1, the most basic, overlays the ETCS system on top of the current signalling system but does use trackside ballise devices. Level 2 removes the need for physical signals, with all communications being undertaken using GSM-R for movement authorities, but requires track circuits to remain for interlocking purposes. The final, most sophisticated version, Level 3, extends the previous level further, creating a moving block around the train and removing the need for traditional track circuits, with integrity checking undertaken onboard the train.

The Cambrian route operates on a Level 2 ERTMS system, implemented by Italian contractor AnsaldoSTS, which won the contract in December 2008 valued at approximately €48 million. The installation of ERTMS on the route, forms the first implementation of the system within the United Kingdom, prior to a nationwide roll-out over the coming years.

▼ Class 153 No. 153305, Class 150/1 No. 150121 and Class 142 No. 142009 rest in between duties for First Great Western at Exeter Depot. Work has recently been taking place to upgrade the depot to provide better fueling facilities. **Matt Ryder**

Station Improvements Round-Up

Horsham station will be undergoing major refurbishment work under the National Stations Improvement Programme (NSIP) scheme.

The work, which starts in May includes rearrangement of the internal layout with new retail outlets, a new station entrance, an improved ticket office and the installation of cycle shelters on both sides of the station.

Balham station is also to have a £1 million, seven-month programme of improvements, including opening a second station access with ticket gates from Balham High Road leading to the bottom of the platform stairs, remodelling the existing station access/booking hall/ticket office by moving the gate line further back and demolishing an empty shop, and making the ticket office area directly accessible. Work on the project begins in mid-April and is due to be completed during October.

A new footbridge, complete with lifts and stairs is one of the improvements planned for Bridgend at a cost of £2.4 million. The existing footbridge was not built with ramps, resulting in passengers with reduced mobility relying on assistance from station staff to access the platforms via a level crossing or a controlled gate from the road.

Network Rail has applied for permission to extend Platform 2 at Stoke-on-Trent by 15 metres to accommodate an 11-coach Class 390 Pendolino.

Network Rail & Northern trial GPS location system

Northern Rail passengers on the Esk Valley line (Middlesbrough to Whitby) will be getting more accurate travel information when trials of GPS vehicle tracking capabilities on its trains commence.

The route is typical of many rural lines on Northern's network, the provision of providing accurate train running information being difficult because the signalling often does not have the technology to automatically report a train's location. Signalling equipment is very expensive to replace and therefore Northern is to undertake a trial of a GPS system, as a lower cost alternative for tracking its trains.

If the trial is successful, this solution has the potential to be used on many routes across the UK rail network. The GPS equipment, which has been part funded by Network Rail, has been fitted on 14 Class 156 DMUs based at Heaton Depot, which are the only trains that operate on the Esk Valley line. It will use commercial mobile phone networks to regularly report back an accurate position of each train to Northern's control centre, where staff will work with specialist software to keep information up to date at the stations.

As part of the project, Network Rail has installed customer information screens at Whitby, Grosmont and Lealholm stations, which have been part funded by the Association of Community Rail Partnerships.

Stobart Rail '92' works international steel service

▼ **DB Schenker's unique Stobart Rail-liveried Class 92 No. 92017** *Bart the Engine*, **was used to work the Dollands Moor to Scunthorpe steel service on two consecutive days at the end of March. The train, which currently provides the only electrically-hauled freight service on the East Coast Main Line, is Class 92-hauled from Dollands Moor to Doncaster, where a Class 66 takes over for the final leg to Scunthorpe. The same happens for the loaded train in return. Traffic originates from the TATA works in Lincolnshire and is bound for Etange in France. Class 92 No. 92017 speeds through Botany Bay, north of Retford, on 30th March. Richard Tuplin**

UK News In Brief

■ Services around Cardiff and the surrounding valleys were severely disrupted on 22nd March after a power surge to Cardiff Signalling Centre knocked out all of the signalling. The resulting problems took around seven hours to correct and get traffic back to normal.

■ The green light has finally been given to redouble the route from Kemble to Swindon. A new feasibility study from Network Rail has also demonstrated that the project could be completed for £41.7 million - a dramatic saving over the original cost of £52 million! Work is expected to be completed in 2014.

■ Testing of the first 11-car Class 390 Pendolino is reported to be progressing well, with No. 390054 having operated up to 125mph within a possession and having had the selective door operations successfully tested. Over the coming weeks, the testing of the tilt software within possessions will take place, followed by traction and brake tests at 125mph.

■ Photo-sharing website Fotopic.net, owned by Snappy Designs Limited, has gone into liquidation. The Director of the company, Stephen Dyer, said: "The company has ceased trading due to an unexpected, significant decrease in revenue". Jeremy Bleazard of XL Business Solutions, in Cleckheaton, West Yorkshire, has been appointed as liquidator.

■ Plans are currently being drawn up for an upgrade of Port Talbot Parkway. The island platform station will be provided with a new enclosed footbridge with lifts, a new ticket office and waiting area.

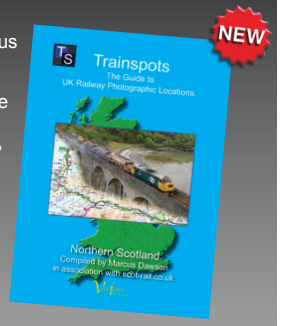
■ Europorte, a subsidiary of Groupe Eurotunnel, has been awarded a contract to move cement between the Vicat factory in Xeuilley, in Lorraine, and its depot at Chelles, to the East of Paris.

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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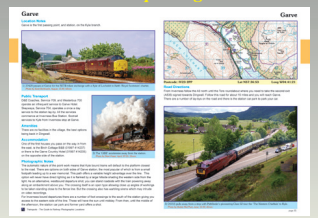

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▲ **East Coast MD, Elaine Holt, stands with Alan Shearer and Lady Elsie Robson, after the two guests unveiled the name** *Sir Bobby Robson* **on Class 91/1 No. 91109. The naming was the first undertaken by East Coast and also marked a return to cast plates for the '91s'. Ron Cover**

East Coast honours England football legend

East Coast has started a new train-naming programme with the unveiling at Newcastle station on 29th March of Class 91 No. 91109 *Sir Bobby Robson*, **in memory of the footballing legend, Newcastle United hero, and former England soccer manager.**

Sir Bobby's widow, Lady Elsie Robson, and former England and Newcastle United captain, Alan Shearer, patron of the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation charity, unveiled the nameplate, with East Coast Chairman Elaine Holt.

East Coast is also pledging its support for the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation, the cancer charity he set up in 2008.

After the ceremony, Alan Shearer said: "Sir Bobby would have been amused by the fact that he is going to be pulling me up and down the country several times a week, just like he used to pull me around all over Newcastle when I was a player!"

Metro and Light Rail News

New Midland Metro bridge completed

The £3 million bridge over Great Charles Street Queensway that will take the Midland Metro tramway through Birmingham city centre into New Street station has been completed on time and on budget.

The extension will provide a fast link between Birmingham's two major stations of New Street and Snow Hill and will also provide direct access for millions into the heart of the city's shopping district. The new structure makes use of a former rail bridge abutment and pier and lands on the new viaduct alongside Snow Hill station. Design work for the on-street section of the Metro extension is now underway and preliminary site works are expected to commence in 2012.

The Metro currently runs from Wolverhampton to Snow Hill station, but under the extension, trams will follow a route from the existing Metro terminus at Snow Hill, along the new viaduct, down Upper Bull Street and Corporation Street, then on to Stephenson Street, before stopping outside a new entrance at New Street station. The route will also serve as a platform for a future rapid transit network that can connect and feed into the proposed High Speed Rail terminus in Eastside.

The total cost of the scheme is £127 million, with £55 million of that paying for the 1.3km long extension. Centro's plans to extend the Metro will create 1,300 sustainable new jobs and is estimated to boost the West Midlands economy by £50 million a year as a fleet of new, bigger trams increase passenger capacity between Birmingham and the Black Country.

Access to Snow Hill station has also been greatly improved following the opening of a second passenger entrance. The work involved quite delicate and complex engineering to install an entrance, complete with escalators and lifts, inside the 120-year-old railway arches in Livery Street, but now provides access to Midland Metro trams both now and from 2015 when they will no longer terminate at Snow Hill Station but will run through directly to New Street.

◀ **One of the Nottingham trams, No. 208** *Dinah Minton*, **leaves The Forest stop bound for the city centre on 24th March. When the new extensions are complete, trams will pass over the top of Nottingham national rail station. John Balaam**

Reviving London's past

Talks aimed at raising the finance needed to refurbish the first of 26 disused London Underground stations are underway and have been given the green light by Transport for London on the condition that no public money is involved.

The Old London Underground Company, which is behind the scheme, believes that the stations and tunnel networks could be made use of as possible bars, concert venues and tourist attractions. Four of the stations that are no longer open to travellers are Aldwych, Brompton Road, Down Street and South Kentish Town. Aldwych closed in 1994, but the other three have been shut to passengers since 1934, 1932 and 1924, respectively. Down Street was used as a bomb shelter by Winston Churchill and his Cabinet during World War II and Brompton Road was used as a control centre for anti-craft during the same period.

▲ **Although the Class 460s have been stored, No. 460001 has been removed from storage at Chart Leacon, and is seen approaching South Croydon with the 15.00 London Victoria to Gatwick on 1st April. Tony Sullivan**

Electrification plans gather pace

Plans to electrify major routes are gathering pace, Network Rail having issued a tender for machinery and plant to install overhead power lines quickly and efficiently.

The invitation to tender follows last month's announcement by the Transport Secretary to give Network Rail the go-ahead to electrify the Great Western Main Line to Cardiff, the announcement coming on top of other confirmed schemes to electrify routes from Paddington to Oxford and Newbury, as well as schemes in the North West between Liverpool, Manchester and Blackpool. It is planned to complete electrification to Oxford, Newbury and Bristol by the end of 2016, with the lines to Cardiff being completed by the end of 2017.

Schemes between Liverpool and Manchester should be completed by 2014 and a further scheme to Blackpool by 2016.

The multi-million pound tender will be let under Network Rail's new contracting strategy, enabling a more market-led approach to delivery of the project. The chosen delivery partner will be fully integrated into Network Rail's delivery team to deliver the options and the best solutions, creating better value throughout the development, design and delivery process. The specifications set out in the tender include machinery that adopts the use of construction techniques that minimise disruption, and enable most of the work to be carried out within overnight eight-hour windows.

◀ DBS Class 67 No. 67022 is pictured with a short rake of Mk4 coaches at Loughborough on 27th March, having arrived from Bounds Green. The locomotive will perform a series of moves to gain access to the Brush Traction works. **Tony Rispoli**

◀▼ In old and new liveries, Class 92s Nos. 92032 and 92028 *Saint Saens* approach Shortlands on 24th March, heading for Wembley with the usual Europorte driver training run. **Bill Turvill**

▼ Making a rare change from the DBS Class 66 that is normally rostered, EWS Executive-liveried Class 67 No. 67029 *Royal Diamond* heads north through Dunblane with the Mossend to Aberdeen Waterloo Goods service on 19th March. **Graeme Eadington**

UK Steam & Modern Traction Railtour Listings

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
Chester Model Rly Club	tbc	Hooton-Wrexham-Abergavenney-Taunton-Paignton-Kingswear & return
17th April 2011		
Railway Touring Co.	46115	Edinburgh Waverley-Dundee-Aberdeen-Inverness
18th April 2011		
Railway Touring Co.	44871+45407	(Inverness-)Wick-Georgemas Jct-Helmsdale-Brora-Dingwall-Inverness
19th April 2011		
Railway Touring Co.	61994	Inverness-Dingwall-Achnasheen-Kyle of Lochalsh & return
Cruise Saver Travel	DRS Class 47	Edinburgh Waverley-Newcastle-Leeds-Solihull-Oxford-Basingstoke-Southampton Docks
20th April 2011		
Railway Touring Co.	45407+44871	Inverness-Aviemore-Pitlochry-Perth-Glasgow Central
21st April 2011		
Railway Touring Co.	46115	Glasgow Central-Dumfries-Carlisle-Shap-Preston
22nd April 2011		
Railway Touring Co.	5029	Preston-Chester-Shrewsbury-Bristol Temple Meads
Pathfinder Tours	tbc	Gloucester-Hereford-Crewe-Shap-Beattock-Carstairs-Perth-Aviemore-Inverness
UK Railtours	tbc	London King's Cross-Stevenage-Peterborough-York-Newcastle-Dumbarton
23rd April 2011		
Railway Touring Co.	45305+70013	Bristol Temple Meads-Exeter St. Davids-Plymouth-Penzance & return
Statesman Rail	tbc	Shrewsbury-Wrexham-Chester-Knutsford-Stockport-Blackburn-S&C-Carlisle & rtn
Steam Dreams	70000	London Paddington-Beaconsfield-High Wycombe-Stratford upon Avon & return
Pathfinder Tours	tbc	Inverness-Keith-Aberdeen-Keith-Inverness

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

One tour stands out from the crowd this coming week, the Steam Dreams 'Cathedrals Express' from Oxford to Canterbury West, which features the return to main line operations of No. 70000 *Britannia*, the doyen of the class.

It returns after a lengthy absence, during which time it passed from the ownership of Pete Waterman to Jeremy Hoskings, who has funded its latest overhaul. The train itself features Steam Dreams' strategic move of starting more trains from the provinces instead of the Capital, and this working is routed via Reading, Slough and Kensington Olympia to Bromley South and then the traditional route to Canterbury through Maidstone East. The return working travels around the coast to Folkestone and then back to Bromley South by way of Ashford, Paddock Wood and Tonbridge.

There is competition, however, as loyalties may be split between *Britannia* and classmate No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell*, which has also returned to main line duties recently after an extended absence due to firebox repairs that turned out to be more extensive than originally thought. Two days after the debut of *Britannia*, No. 70013 sets out from King's Cross on the Railway Touring Company's 'The Jolly Fisherman', which is destined for only one place - Skegness! A bracing day at the North Sea resort will be preceded by tender-first running between Sleaford and Skegness on the outward leg, over the old M&GN Joint Line from Peterborough, via Spalding. The return is straight forward, smokebox first throughout, to Grantham and then ECML back to King's Cross.

Vintage Trains provides No. 6201 *Princess Elizabeth* with another venture into unfamiliar territory with the 'East Midlander', which is routed to Chester, and takes 'Lizzie' through the East Midlands, via Nuneaton, Leicester, Loughborough and Uttoxeter, before returning to the more familiar West Coast metals at Stoke-on-Trent, and then continuing west through Alsager to Crewe and onwards to Chester for the first of two visits on successive weekends. The following week, No. 6201 does it all again for Steam Dreams, except this time via WCML throughout from London Euston.

There are two non-steam tours, the feature of which is Nenta Traintours opening working of the year that visits the Weardale Railway, from Norwich via Ely and Peterborough, which also drops off at York and Shildon. West Coast Class 47s should feature, as most likely on the remaining tour that is Statesman Rail's 'Settle and Carlisle Statesman' that also originates in East Anglia at Ely, and runs via Peterborough and Doncaster for a return working over the 'Drag'.

▼ **Privately-owned Class 20s Nos. 20189 & 20227 pass Northwood, while working a special train for retired railway staff from Harrow on the Hill to Amersham and back. Metropolitan Railway electric No 12 *Sarah Siddons* was on the rear. John Livett**

UK Railtours celebrates the work of the pioneer

UK Railtours will be operating a very special working on 16th July featuring *Clan Line* **from Waterloo and Woking to Yeovil Junction on the 'Blackmore Vale Express'.**

It is notable, as nowadays No. 35028 is usually tied up exclusively with VSOE work, so the 'Blackmore Vale Express' provides a rare chance to travel behind the Merchant Navy Pacific on a non-British Pullman working. It is also very special for another reason, as it celebrates the 25th anniversary of the return of steam to the South West main line between Waterloo, Salisbury and Yeovil. 'The Blackmore Vale Expresses' brought steam operations, and more particularly Bullied Pacifics, back to the West of England main line. Their instigator was the then Network South East Salisbury Area Manager, Gerald Daniels, who led the movement against the anti-Southern steam lobby within the then British Railways Board, and won! In October 1986, Network South East operated a series of Waterloo to Yeovil Junction workings using a variety of traction, including *Clan Line*, GWR 'Hall' No. 6998 *Burton Agnes Hall* and LNER 'A4' No. 4498 *Sir Nigel Gresley*. Gerald Daniels will be guest of honour on the 2011 version of 'The Blackmore Vale Express', which is booked for *Clan Line* throughout, and is routed outwards over the now little-used Linford Street Flyover, Herne Hill and Tooting, to join the L&SWR route at Wimbledon. For variety, the return will operate from Salisbury to Romsey and Southampton to Winchester, Basingstoke and Woking, ahead of a late bonus of a nowadays rare run along the fast lines back to Waterloo via Surbiton and Wimbledon.

This is not the only blast from the past from the Farrow stable, as back in the Hertfordshire Railtours days, he pioneered the use of HSTs on railtours, which took members of the fleet to some out of the way places. Now under the UK Railtours banner, he is again using a HST set provided by East Midlands Trains to work the previously mentioned 'Jolly High Speed Fisherman' tour on 17th September. The train originates at St Pancras, picking up at Luton Airport Parkway and Kettering, and reaching Skegness by way of Leicester, Nottingham and Sleaford. As a bonus, on the return the train returns via Melton Mowbray to include Harringworth Viaduct in the itinerary. The word from UKR is that there will be more HST tours to look forward to, so watch this space, as they say!

The Staffordshire Moorlands is certainly gaining a reputation in railway circles, and not just because of the exploits of the Churnet Valley and Moorlands and City Railways. UKR's tour on 2nd April has virtually sold out, so a 'relief' will operate on 30th July from London Victoria, Clapham Junction, St Albans City and Bedford. It is routed via Leicester, Loughborough, Castle Donnington and Uttoxeter to Stoke-on-Trent, where a road transfer will take passengers to the Churnet Valley Railway's southern terminus at Kingsley and Froghall. There they will board a CVR train for a trip covering the entire length of the line, which involves initially heading south to Oakamoor, before reversing for what is now one of the most exhilarating journey's on a heritage line, initially following the River Churnet and Cauldon Canal before attacking the fearsome 1-in-40 grade from Leekbrook Junction, which leads to the spectacular views of the Staffordshire Moorland's on the way to Cauldon Lowe. The train will be 'topped and tailed' with steam and diesel traction, most likely with the steam loco leading to Cauldron Lowe.

▲ **BR Standard 7P Pacific No. 70013** *Oliver Cromwell* **passes Brantham on 26th March with 'The Broadsman' charter from Liverpool Street to Holt, via Norwich and Cromer. Don Brundell**

Ranger Trains head to Purbeck, Cumbria and Devon

Following the disappointment of losing all of his first year's programme, railtour stalwart Graham Campion is back with a series of trains under his 'Ranger Trains' banner, which offer a range of departure points from East Midland stations.

It looks, too, that he is steering clear of steam operations at present, no doubt fuelled by the loss of a keynote tour to the Purbeck Coast with *Tornado* last year. Although, he has not given up on the Purbeck Coast, as his first train heading that way on the 11th June will be 'The 'Purbeck Ranger', which has Bournemouth, Poole and Swanage as destinations from Nottingham, and picks up through to Banbury.

Next on offer is 'The Lakeland Ranger' to Grange-over-Sands and Ravenglass on 23rd July from Bedford and stations through to Chesterfield. Newton Abbott and Plymouth are the next to feature with 'The South Devon Ranger' from Nottingham through to Coleshill Parkway, followed by a cruise on the P. S. Waverley around the Thames Estuary from Chesterfield and stations through to Wellingborough, which will also provide a rare loco-hauled arrival at Southend Central.

The programme currently concludes with 'The Bath Christmas Market' on 10th December from Chesterfield, picking up through to Coleshill Parkway with options to visit Swindon and Bristol in addition to Bath. Traction is likely to be DBS Class 67s, and Pathfinder Railtours will be acting as booking agents.

Shorter northern option for 'Cathedrals Explorer'

Steam Dreams is offering a shorter 'Northern' option on its 'Cathedrals Explorer'.

This provides the opportunity to pick up the train at York on the second day, 7th May, and enjoy a four-day land cruise, that features the Settle & Carlisle to Stirling leg, which now includes the Glasgow and South Western route plus Glasgow's City Union Line, then Fort William and Mallaig, before leaving the train at Carlisle or Oxenholme on 10th May.

It is also understood that single journey options will be available after 15th April, more details of which legs will be available will be announced at that time.

Of note, is that on 7th May the train will run to Carlisle via the Settle & Carlisle with No. 46115 *Scots Guardsman*, before making a rare northbound working over the Glasgow & South Western with No. 70000 *Britannia* through to Stirling, which also includes (according to a certain Mr. Bunker who has fired the route) the awesome Glasgow City Union Line.

▼ **LMS 'Princess Royal' Pacific No. 6201** *Princess Elizabeth* **climbs away from Ribblehead Viaduct with Vintage Trains' 'Settle and Carlisle' excursion on 26th March. On the day, No. 6201 carried a wreath for Pat Churchill, wife of celebrated driver Ray Churchill, who died recently. Our condolences to Ray and his family for their sad loss. Pat often travelled in the support coach when Ray was driving, and will be missed by many in the steam fraternity. Alan Taylor**

VINTAGE TRAINS

The Red Rose

Saturday 16th April 2011

Since 5043 "Earl of Mount Edgcumbe" was returned to traffic in 2008 it has comprehensively demolished the myth that Great Western engines were not able to climb hills in the North of England. Having conquered the two most famous hills in Cumbria in both directions, we have continued our search of the North Country for hills to visit, and have found one called Copy Pit, which sounds like an interesting challenge! This tour will take our Flagship Great Western Castle to further new territory for GWR engines in the County of Lancashire, hence the train name "The Red Rose". Commencing from Tyseley Warwick Road platform, the train picks up at Walsall, Wolverhampton, Stafford and Crewe, then via Stockport, a lesser hill called Standedge, Huddersfield, Copy Pit, Blackburn, Farington Junction and Crewe before returning to Birmingham. This train will include a layover of 1 to 2 hours in Blackburn whilst the loco is serviced and watered. There will be photographic opportunities at Crewe in both directions.

Standard Class	Premier Dining	First Class
£79	£150	£110

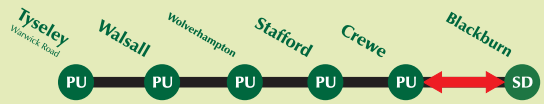
Includes a full English breakfast and a traditional 3-course dinner.
Tables for two in First Class and Premier Dining : £20 per table (£10 per person extra)

TO BOOK CONTACT VINTAGE TRAINS

0121 708 4960

OR FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.vintagetrains.co.uk



Class 31s Nos. 31601 and 31454 lead Rail Blue Charter's 'Whitby Jet' excursion through Fairburn Ings, Castleford, on 25th March. **Neil Scarlett**

Loco-hauled services were the 'in' activity at Holyhead on 26th March. On the left are Class 67s Nos. 67006 *Royal Sovereign* and 67017, waiting to work the return leg of UK Railtours 'Welsh Highland' excursion, while on the right are WCRC Class 37/5s Nos. 37685 and 37676 on Spitfire Railtours' 'The Holy Oakes' charter. Brian Garrett

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 aims to raise £450,000 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.

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- **Tax allowances for investments over £500 – Enterprise Investment Scheme tax relief now increased to 30%**
- **Enhanced benefits for applications received before May 3, 2011**

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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

From the days when steam was king and diesels were just a thought on the horizon...

One of Britain's most renowned railway photographers, Brian Morrison, takes us through some of his archive of over 100,000 images with a look back at superb steam action from the 1950s around the country, region-by-region.

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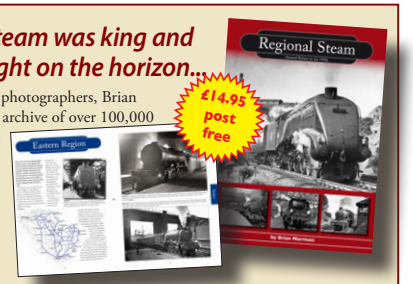

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Edward II reigns supreme as single chimney GWR 'King' returns

A sight that many thought would never happen, the real No. 6023 *King Edward II* **back in steam and moving under its own power.**

Built in 1930 for the Great Western Railway, the locomotive was withdrawn from Cardiff Canton shed by British Railways in June 1962 and ended its days at Woodham Brothers scrapyard in Barry, where during a shunting accident, the rear set of driving wheels were sliced through with a cutters torch. Rescued in 1982, restoration by various groups, most recently the Great Western Society, has taken nearly 30 years, but once 'running-in' trials have been completed, *King Edward II* will no doubt become the pride of Didcot.

▲ Looking regal. GWR 'King' 4-6-0 No. 6023 *King Edward II* **stands on the turntable at Didcot Railway Centre during the supporters day on 31st March.**

▶ On the same day, the BR Express Passenger blue-liveried 'King' is pictured on the demonstration line.
Both: Jack Boskett

▲ During the Mid-Hants Railway gala weekend, visiting GWR Hall Class 4-6-0 No. 4953 *Pitchford Hall* coasts into Medstead and Four Marks with the railway's Ransome and Rapier Crane. The event also included a pair of GWR 4-4-0s on the line. **Adam Stratton**

▼ During the South Devon Railway's 'Half Price Weekend' event, GWR 1366 Class 0-6-0PT No. 1369 climbs the bank towards Staverton on 27th March. **Oliver Ridge**

Churnet Valley enjoys 10% take up of share issue

Despite a grey and occasionally very wet day on the Staffordshire Moorlands on 30th March, there were queues at the Churnet Valley Railway's (CVR) Kingsley & Froghall station waiting to sign-up for its new share issue.

Indeed the demand delayed the start of the first train of the day, which offered a free trip to all who had bought shares. When the final tally was made, the CVR was delighted to find that it had already achieved 10% of the £400,000 target from subscribers on the day. Additionally, a further 500 prospectuses have been posted to people who had requested a copy via the CVR's website, and with further high profile events in the pipeline, there is optimism that this, the Railway's fourth share issue, will be the most successful of the lot.

It has been floated for two specific reasons; to provide a much needed catering and amenity facility at Cheddleton station, as well as purchasing a share holding in Moorland & City Railways (MCR), which plans to reopen the line from Leekbrook Junction (at the northern end of the CVR line) to Stoke-on-Trent as well as the route from the southern end of the CVR at Oakamoor through to Alton Towers. The CVR occupies the strategic middle section of this proposed North Staffordshire network, and a close working relationship between the two concerns is vital. The allocation of funds to each of the projects will be at the discretion of the directors, but this will likely be on a 50-50 basis, with any spare funds remaining after the two investments have been made being used as working capital for the CVR.

There is a range of shareholder benefits, from a seat on one of the preview trains to celebrate the opening of the line to Stoke-on-Trent, through to a 'Trail Blazer' lifetime pass and special one-off discounts on items such as 'wine and dine' trains and footplate experience courses, all of which depend on the number of shares purchased. Tax incentives are also available to investors of more than £500 under the Enterprise Investment Scheme, which offers both income and capital gains tax relief. A further important incentive is that up to the end of April, shares are effectively discounted by 50%, as from 2nd May the qualification shareholding to obtain the shareholder benefits is doubled. The message is, if you want to invest, then do not delay! Copies of the prospectus can be ordered directly from the CVR's website.

There is keen outside interest in this scheme, as the recreation of an effective rail network in the area will significantly help the local economy and environment. The road system is already under pressure, and the removal of some of the aggregate traffic from Cauldon Lowe would be a great start, hopefully followed by a regular service from rail reconnected Leek to Stoke-on-Trent, which would relieve pressure on the already busy local routes. Of course, the 'big one', is opening up Alton Towers to rail traffic, which would significantly improve access to the theme park for many of its visitors, and make life a lot easier for the locals by relieving congestion on the surrounding roads.

▼ Class 33 No. 33021 stands at Cauldon Lowe on 30th March, having arrived with a service from Kingsley & Froghall on the share issue launch day. **John Whitehouse**

The Bredgar & Wormshill Light Railway will hold an open day on 5th June, during which an ex-Sena Sugar Estates 0-4-2T, now named *Zambezi* and O&K AG No. 8 *Helga* will return to service. The open day starts at 10.30, with trains running frequently from 11.00 until 16.30. BWLR

Gloucestershire Warwickshire rises like a phoenix from its landslip problems and is optimistic for a better 2012

The Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway operated the first passenger train in 40 years over its latest extension to Laverton on 30th March.

The working, formed of the line's recently arrived Class 117 DMU set, previewed the extension to media and stakeholders, ahead of the commencement of public services on 2nd April. The railway will celebrate its 30th anniversary this year as two railways, as a result of the severe landslips at Gotherington and Chicken Curve over the past 12 months.

With work at Chicken Curve likely to last for the season, services from Toddington will be worked by the DMU and will head north over the extension to Laverton, crossing Stanway Viaduct, and offering passengers panoramic views of the surrounding Cotswold countryside. The '117' will be joined by a further DMU set shortly. Following the completion of trackbed repairs at Gotherington, a steam service will operate over the seven miles from Winchcombe to Cheltenham Racecourse from 22nd April. To provide the service, the railway has had to slightly alter its site at Winchcombe to accommodate the required facilities, including the installation of a pit for loco servicing. A rake of Mk1 coaches, together with three steam locomotives will be moved from Toddington to Winchcombe to operate the southern end service, the three being Turkish '8F' 2-8-0 No. 45160 and GWR 2800 Class 2-8-0 No. 2807, when they return from the Great Central Railway, along with GWR 'Hall' 4-6-0 No. 7903 *Foremarke Hall*, which is currently receiving general repairs at Tyseley.

▲ **Class 37/0 No. 37215 stands with the railway's Class117 DMU at the limit of operations at Laverton on 30th March. Three days later and the route had its first public passenger trains for the first time in 40 years. Jack Boskett**

G-WR chairman, Malcolm Temple is overwhelmed by the amount of donations given in such a short period of time and the generous help from various heritage railways, including the Great Central Railway at Loughborough, which held a steam gala called the 'Gr8 Escape' on 9th/10th April, featuring the Turkish '8F' and the 2800 class 2-8-0. The South Devon, Mid-Hants and Talyllyn Railways have all made donations or held events to help the appeal. Malcolm Temple told Railway Herald: "The £1 million appeal launched by our President, Pete Waterman, has so far raised over £400,000, but that is still well short of what we need and the appeal remains very much open. All of that £1 million is vital so that we can eventually repair the Winchcombe 'Chicken Curve' collapse as well".

Work on the two landslips is progressing. At Gotherington, the track has been relaid and is awaiting tamping and signalling before being recommissioned. A remarkable fact that has appeared out of the reconstruction work is the discovery that the embankment was originally built during the autumn. One of the core samples that was taken from the trial bores that penetrated into the original land below the embankment, shows that little preparation work was carried out and that the construction was undertaken directly on top of the land – the grass seeds that had been previously laid being perfectly preserved!

At Chicken Curve, trial bores will shortly be undertaken to establish the conditions within the embankment and allow a solution to be designed that will permanently solve the slippage problem.

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Opening day approaches at Duffield

With the formal reopening of the Wirksworth branch through to Duffield little more than a week away, the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway is busy putting the finishing touches to its new station at Duffield.

The EVR has a major marketing opportunity as the station layout offers a very convenient virtual cross-platform interchange with the National Network. East Midlands Trains has already added the EVR stations to its fares system, allowing through tickets to be purchased.

The railway will be formally opened on 6th April, with public services operating for the first time during a gala event the following weekend. BR Standard Class 2MT Mogul No. 78019, which is on a two-month hire from the GCR, will be the star of the show. Advance ticket sales for the opening gala weekend are selling well, and in a reversal of previous policy, the EVR has confirmed that it will be possible to pay on the day. . The final hurdle for the grand re-opening was passed on 1st April with a successful HMRI inspection that declared the line as being fit for passenger operations.

▲ The future has arrived at Duffield, the new southern terminus of the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway. BR Standard 2MT No. 78019 stands in the new platform at Duffield on 27th March, while working a rehearsal train for the grand reopening ceremony.

▼ The attractive station at Duffield and its virtual cross-platform interchange between the National Network and the EVR is clearly visible. Both: EVR

▶ On 25th March, the opening day of public services to Eridge, Class 37/0 No. 37254 approaches the new terminus, running alongside Network Rail metals. **Ken Brunt**

▼ SR 'N15' 4-6-0 No. 30777 *Sir Lamiel* approaches Crowcombe Heathfield on the West Somerset Railway, with the 12.00 Minehead-Bishops Lydeard service during the railway's 35th anniversary steam gala weekend on 25th March. **Bob Rosenthal**

▶▼ Class 31/1 No. 31289 passes Class 37/5 No. 37679, the latter awaiting restoration, at Pitsford and Brampton on the Northampton & Lamport Railway on 27th March. **Daniel Deacon**

◀ It was back to the 1960s on the Great Central Railway on 26th/27th March. With the 60s atmosphere not quite being completed by LMS red-liveried Stanier '8F' 2-8-0 No. 8624, the locomotive powers towards Woodthorpe with the 11.05 Loughborough Central to Leicester North service on 26th March. **Kev Gregory**

◀▼ English Electric Type 1 No. D8098 coasts through Quorn & Woodhouse on the same day, with a short goods train from Rothley Brook. **Paul Braybrook**

▼ Formerly of Turkish State Railways, repatriated Stanier-designed 8F 2-8-0 No. 45160 approaches Quorn & Woodhouse with a freight working from Loughborough Central during the 1960s gala on 26th March. **Mick Rogers**

BR Britannia Class Pacific No. 70000 leaves Doniford Beech Halt during the West Somerset Railway's spring gala on 25th March. **John Woolley**

GWR 'City' 4-4-0 No. 3717 *City of Truro* **and GWR 'Dukedog' 4-4-0 No. 9017** *Earl of Berkeley* **restart their train away from Ropley on 26th March. Adam Stratton**

◀ Class 31 No. 5580 made the first known appearance of the type on the Llangollen Railway on 26th March, when it operated four round trips from Llangollen. The visitor is pictured on the approach to Glyndyfrdwy with its first public working, the 10.20 Llangollen to Carrog service.

◀▼ Members of the resident fleet were also in action. Class 26 No. D5310 accelerates past Pentre Felin with the 16.00 Llangollen to Carrog service. **Both: Fred Kerr**

▼ The Class 104 DMU pairing of vehicles Nos. 50454 and 50528 arrive at Berwyn on 26th March with a Llangollen bound service. **Robert Jefferys**

Approaching Howgill, an unidentified Virgin Trains' Pendolino heads south from Tebay on the West Coast Main Line on 1st April in the shadow of the busy M6 and overlooking the River Lune. **Trevor Jones**

As the sun glints off the running rails, Class 43 powercar No. 43013 leads the Network Rail NMT through Worting Junction on 23rd March, while working from Salisbury to Old Oak Common. Of note, is the high level headlight now fitted to the powercar. **Tony Rispoli**

PowerHaul Class 86/6 pairing of Nos. 86637 and 86632 pass Marks Tey on 21st March, hauling the 09.58 Crewe Basford Hall-Felixstowe containers. **Antony Guppy**

4th April 2011

North Yorkshire Moors Railway (Northallerton)
Northallerton Town Cricket Club, Farndale Avenue, Northallerton. 'Streamlined Trains' by Chris Nettleton. Starts 19.30. Contact Ian McInnes on 01642 767233 for 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 St., Gravesent DA12 1BB. 'Gravesham & District Railways' by Bob Poole. Starts 19.45. Contact 01474 326232.

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. Start 19.45. Admission £1.50. Contact 01255 677165 for details.

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 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 Central Railway Society (Sheffield)
The Harlequin, 108 Nursery Street, Sheffield S3 8GG. 'A Lucky Dip by Ken Horan. Starts 19.30. Contact 0114 254 0275 for further details.

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.

Scarborough Rly Society
Scarborough Library, Vernon Road. 'Films from the Archives of the NRM, 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.

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 01482 451090.

11th April 2011

Driffield & East Yorkshire Rly Society
The Sidings, Middle Street South, Driffield, YO25 6PX. 'Diesels in the 70s and 80s' by Barry Plews. Starts 19.30. £2 Donation. Contact the Club Secretary on 01377 254068.

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.

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 for further details.

12th April 2011

8E Railway Association
The Gladstone Club, Station Road, Northwich, CW9 5RB. 'Steam in the 60s' by Edgar Richards. Starts 19.45. Contact 07790 486735 for 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.

Locomotive Club of Gt. Britain (Nth 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, 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, NW1 6NJ. 'Cuba Revisited' by Lawrence Marshall. Starts 19.15. Admission £2. Contact 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 01904 331973 for further details.

LCGB (St Albans)
United Reform Church, Watford Road, Chiswell Green. 'Westwards from Dover; 1960s Steam' by Peter Groom. Starts 19.30. £2 Donation.

15th April 2011

GW Society (Taunton)
Village Hall, Stoke St Mary, nr Taunton TA3 5DE. 'Southern Steam in the 1960s' by Malcolm Garner. Start 19.30. Visitors welcome. Contact 01823 334188 for further details.

16th April 2011

GW Society (Sth 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

Great Central Railway Society (Spinkhill)
The Angel Hotel, 26 College Road, Spinkhill, Sheffield S21 3YB 'BR Standards at Work around the Country - Part 3' by Ashley Shimwell. Starts 19.30. Contact Frank Greaves on 01909 473927 for further details.

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

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.

▼ DRS Class 20/3s Nos. 20304 and 20305, on hire to GBRf, pass through Ely on 17th March, conveying 18 FEAs from storage at Harwich Parkeston Quay to Peterborough. **Antony Guppy**

Stafford Rly Society
St Leonards Social Club, St Leonards Avenue, Stafford. 'Cromford & High Peak Railway' by Roger Crombleholm. Starts 19.30. Contact 01785 840622 for further details.

19th April 2011
RCTS (Woking)
The Wheatsheaf Inn, Chobham Road, Woking. 'Copyright BR - The British Railways Photographic Unit' by John Goss. Meeting starts at 19.15. Contact 01252 315967 for details.

RCTS(Cheltenham)
Victory Club, Burlington House, Lypiatt Road, Cheltenham GL502SY. 'Branch AGM followed by Members' Slides/Talks'. Meeting starts at 19.30.

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
Great Central Railway Society (Sheffield)
The Exmouth Arms, 1 Starcross Street, Euston, London NW1 2HR. 'Merseyrail' by Richard Crane. Starts 18.30. Contact Richard Butter on 01525 372487 for further details.

Stevenage Loco 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 details.

29th April 2011
Scarborough Rly Society
Scarborough Library, Vernon Road, Scarborough. 'Talk by a Well Known Driver on the NYMR and elsewhere' by Chris Cubitt. Starts 19.45.

30th April 2011
Bournemouth Rly 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.

RCTS (Watford)
St. Thomas' United Reformed Church, Langley Road, Watford. 'Heineken Days' by Andy Grimmett. Meeting commences at 19.30.

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 01934 628289 for details.

5th May 2011
Great Central Railway Society (Sheffield)
The Harlequin, 108 Nursery Street, Sheffield S3 8GG. TBA. Starts 19.30. Contact Ken Grainger on 0114 254 0275 for further details.

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.

6th May 2011
Great Western Society (North West)
St Hilda's Clubroom, Slater Street, Latchford, Warrington WA4 1DN. 'B.R. Steam' by J.Field. Starts 19.30. Visitors welcome.

RCTS (Bristol)
St Peters Church Hall, Church Road, Filton. 'The Reading Station Rebuilding Project' by Callum Macleod. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (Carnforth)
Royal Station Hotel, Market Street, Carnforth. 'Outdoor Visit - TBA' Meeting commences at 19.30.

9th May 2011
Lincoln Railway Society
St Hugh's Church Hall, Harewood Crescent, North Hykeham, Lincoln LN6 8JG 'A Show of Two Halves' by Jim Sparks & Roger Childs. Starts 20.008, Visitors welcome, £3 Admission. Contact Publicity Member on 01522-705365 for details

RCTS (Ashford)
The Elwick Club, Church Road, Ashford. 'Digital Extravaganza' Branch Members. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (East Croydon)
Small Hall, East Croydon United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon. 'The Brighton Atlantic Project; by David G.Jones. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Ipswich)
Bridge Ward Club, 68 Austin Street, Ipswich. 'Latin Rails; by Ray Schofield. Meeting starts at 19.30.

RCTS (Sheffield)
St Mathews Church Rooms, Carver Street, Sheffield. 'Railway Relics' Branch Members. Starts 19.30.

Severn Valley Railway (Wolverhampton)
Old Wulfrunians Club, 253A Castlecroft Road, Castlecroft, Wolverhampton WV3 8NA. 'Swiss Railways' by Geoff Dingle. Starts 19.30. Admission £2.50. Contact Alan Davies on 01902 758882 for further details.

Southern Electric Group (Sussex)
Deall Room, Southwick Community Centre, Southwick. 'On Board Southern' by Alan Harvey. Starts 19.30. Donation of £2 requested. Contact Bruce Cakebread on 01273 462094 for further details.

York Railway Circle
Archbishop Holgate's School, Hull Road, York YO10 5ZA 'Heritage Cine Films' by Allan Dawson. Starts 19.30. Contact Robin Patrick on 01904 412232 for further details.

10th May 2011
8E Railway Association
The Gladstone Club, Station Road, Northwich, CW9 5RB. 'Chinese Steam' by Geoff Coward. Meeting commences at 19.45. Contact Paul Tench on 07790 486735 for details

Great Western Society (Bristol)
BAWA, 589 Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol BS34 7RG. 'Transports of Delight' by Terry McCarthy. Starts 19.45. Contact the Secretary on 01454 324230 for further details.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (North London)
2 Stuart Crescent, Wood Green, London N22. 'Steam Railway Videos at Home and Abroad' by Jim Pentney. Starts 19.00. Contact the Secretary Tony Stratford at stratford_tony@hotmail.com.

RCTS (Chester)
'Observation at Warrington Bank Quay 10.00 - 16.00. Contact Geoff Morris on 01244 3768089 or at geoffreymorris@tiscali.co.uk for further details.

RCTS (Hull)
Upstairs, The Highway Public House, Willerby Road, Hull. 'Pot Pourri of Slides' by Eddie Parker. Starts 19.30.

11th May 2011
Oxfordshire Railway Society
Seacourt Day Centre, Seacourt Road, Oxford OX2 9LD. 'Preserved Byways of Great Britain' by Gerald Siviour. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Hitchin)
Hitchin Christian Centre, Bedford Road, Hitchin. 'Hadley Wood Widening/Scottish Railtour 1962' by John Burdon. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (Radyr)
Old Church Rooms, Park Road, Radyr. 'Steam on the Main Line in 2010' by Karl Jauncey and Dave Richards. Meeting commences at 19.30.

12th May 2011
Bath Railway Society
Bath Green Park Station Meeting Room, Bath. 'Bodmin and Wendord Railway' by Richard Jones. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Kevin Plummer on 01225 312564 for further details.

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

The pioneer General Electric Class 70 No. 70001 *Powerhaul* arrives at Crewe Basford Hall on 12th March with an intermodal service from Ditton, taken during a guided tour of the yard on the recent charity event.
Brian Garrett

Magazine Information

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