Railway Herald

Issue 263 - 11th April 2011

The weekly railway enthusiast's magazine

Railway Herald

Issue 263
11th April 2011

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Publication
Railway Herald is published weekly, 47 times a year.

Submissions
We welcome submissions from all readers, especially digital photographs. Pictures should be sent to the editor at *editor@railwayherald.com*

Good quality scans of colour slides and prints are also acceptable. There is currently no financial payment made for photographs published in *Railway Herald*. Where possible we always try to use news photographs taken within the production week of the publication date.

Website
Our website contains all back issues of the magazine and is available at **www.railwayherald.com**

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ISSN 1751-8091

Brian Morrison

Southampton to Nuneaton upgrade completed

Freightliner and Network Rail celebrated the completion of the Southampton to Nuneaton route upgrade on 4th April. The work allows larger containers to be carried on conventional wagons, and adapts the railway network to the changing needs of logistics carriers.

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An NXEA Class 321/3 was named at Ilford Depot on 4th April, to mark the retirement of one of the depot's technicians after 50 years service.

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Front Cover Caption:

Currently the only Class 66 to carry DB Schenker livery, No. 66152 *Derek Holmes, Railway Operator* **drifts downhill at Birkett Common with the 17.05 Clitheroe to Mossend loaded cement working on 7th April.**
John Wade

▲ The retimed 12.00 Southampton Millbrook to Manchester Trafford Park Freightliner Intermodal service, the first to convey the higher containers over the cross-country route, awaits departure on 4th April, with Class 70 No. 70003 providing the motive power, framed by a garland of Freightliner-coloured balloons. **Brian Morrison**

Southampton to Nuneaton route upgrade completed

Freightliner and Network Rail celebrated the completion of the Southampton to Nuneaton route upgrade on 4th April.

The work, to allow larger containers to be carried on conventional wagons, involved rebuilding 16 bridges, lowering or slewing the track in 22 places and adjusting 11 station canopies, together with two station platforms. In addition, the track through Southampton Tunnel was set in concrete to create more space for the 'high cube' containers to pass through. The project has been delivered more than £11.5 million under the original £71 million budget, largely as a result of the innovative approach used to lower the tracks through Southampton Tunnel.

At the formal opening of the line on 4th April, Transport Minister, Theresa Villiers said: "Ensuring economic stability and growth is vital, and one way to achieve this is by investing in the UK's rail freight network. That is why we have provided £43 million of funding to upgrade this important rail link between Southampton and the West Midlands, which will enable more goods to be transported across the country faster and more efficiently". With the main line route now complete, Network Rail will start work later this year to upgrade 28 structures and adjust the tracks in 14 locations on the line from Southampton to Basingstoke, via Romsey, Salisbury and Andover. Eight of these structures will be public highways, the remainder being on private roads, bridleways or footpaths. This upgrade will allow freight trains to continue transporting the larger containers on any occasions when the main line is closed, for example when rail improvement works are being carried out.

Editorial

It is always pleasing to report the ongoing progress and growth with *Railway Herald*, all of which is thanks to you, the readers.

As with all businesses, *Railway Herald* needs to grow and we have many exciting developments planned for later this year. The first of these being to expand the editorial team, with the addition of a new Advertising Representative. Our previous Advertising Representative, Ken Brunt, has moved on to new areas within the company, and the new part-time post, which is advertised within this issue, will allow the rest of the editorial team more time to work on the magazine, while doing our best to keep it free!

We're also pleased to announce that the next issue of our popular steam DVD magazine, Steam Focus, will be released towards the end of April, and will be available to pre-order from our website shortly.

Chiltern facing fined for franchise breaches

The Department for Transport (DfT) has told Chiltern Railways that it faces a fine of £500,000 because of the late delivery of two station improvement schemes and two breaches of requirements to timetable changes, both stipulated under the franchise agreement.

The station delays relate to the building of a waiting shelter at Northolt Park, the installation of lifts at Aylesbury, and the unapproved timetable changes to accommodate the company's recently withdrawn Wrexham & Shropshire trains, which according to the DfT amounted to an 'unauthorised sub-contracting of subsidised services to the open-access operator'.

Chiltern has until 5th May to comment, the penalty coming into effect in June. Obviously not pleased with the DfT's intention, the Chairman of Chiltern, Adrian Shooter, said: "It would be a cause for enormous regret if £500,000 were diverted from investment in improvement for passengers as a result of low-impact franchise breaches. We accept that in 2009 there were four technical breaches of the franchise agreement, none of which had significant consequences for our passengers or incurred cost to the taxpayer. The most serious breaches were a 16-week delay in commissioning new lifts at a single station and a four-week delay in installing a new shelter on a platform that already had one. Since that time, we have successfully delivered £7.25 million of investment in station improvements and car park expansions, started work on the largest privately-funded passenger infrastructure project since before World War II, and continued to meet all the requirements of our franchise on punctuality and service quality. Next month, we will be introducing brand new commuter trains at a cost of £1.2 million per carriage."

Transport Minister, Theresa Villiers, said: "This Government is on the side of rail passengers. I am pleased that Chiltern's contraventions have all now been remedied. However, we could not let these breaches pass without further action". It should be noted however, given the Transport Minister's comments, that all four of the said breaches, did not adversely affect passengers and took place over 12 months ago!

Gatwick improvements brought forward for Olympics

Network Rail has announced that it plans to bring forward the concourse improvements at Gatwick Airport, which are part of a £53 million upgrade of the station and infrastructure that is to be completed in time for the London 2012 Olympic Games.

The construction work was planned to start in Autumn 2012, but with Gatwick Airport being a main gateway for visitors to Great Britain next summer, every effort will now be made to deliver as many of the key improvements as possible. The work being considered for early delivery includes changing the concourse layout to improve passenger flow and reduce congestion, and improving the information screens and help points. There will also be enhancement of the retail facilities.

The complete £53 million scheme will provide a range of benefits for passengers, including a new platform to address the existing bottleneck in the Gatwick area for services on the Brighton main line, improved passenger circulation on Platforms 5 and 6 through the replacement of an existing stairway with an escalator and the installation of a new lift, upgrade of the track and signalling to improve performance and reliability of trains passing through and those travelling to and from the Airport. The work will be funded by Network Rail in the sum of £44.9 million, with Gatwick Airport contributing £7.9 million.

DB Schenker Class 60 moves to North East Lincolnshire

▼ **Class 60 No. 60011 made its first appearance on operations out of Immingham Docks on 5th April, since being repainted into DB Schenker colours. Here, the locomotive passes Melton Ross, with a Lindsey Oil Refinery to Kingsbury loaded petroleum working. Richard Tuplin**

▲ **Robert Barnes stands next to 'his' unit at Ilford Depot, with the replica nameplate on 4th April. Jack Boskett**

NXEA honours 50 years of railway service

National Express East Anglia Class 321/3 No. 321342 was named *R. Barnes* **at Ilford Depot on 4th April, to mark the retirement of Bob Barnes, who had worked in the railway industry for over 50 years, having joined in 1957 when just 15 years old.**

He began his career as a coach maker apprentice based at Stratford main works, where his father also worked as a stores man. Indeed, Bob comes from a family with a long association with the railway, as aside from his father, Bob's grandfather and two uncles also served on the railway. During his career, Bob worked at Bounds Green Depot and Holloway sidings, and following a two year break from the industry in which he worked for Fords, he moved to Ilford Depot as a technician in the late 1960s, where he remained until his retirement. He became a key member of the depot team and was a great supporter of his colleagues, whom he served as a staff representative for many years. He retired aged 68 in December 2010, and returned to Ilford Depot for the surprise event.

Station Improvements Round-Up

A major upgrade of Deptford station has begun to provide easier access and enhanced facilities to better meet the needs of passengers and businesses.

The work, which is scheduled for completion by spring 2012, includes the construction of a new station building, including a modern ticket office, accessible ticket window and improved passenger information, and the installation of two new lifts to create step-free access between the station entrance and the platforms. Work to extend the canopies will also be undertaken along both platforms allowing passengers to wait under cover during bad weather.

Norbury is also to be improved with the existing ticket office revamped, the disused waiting shelter on Platform 1 converted into a fully enclosed waiting room, and the platform canopies refurbished.

In North London, the first phase of a major project to improve facilities and access at Finsbury Park station, and ultimately provide extra capacity for more trains into Central London has also begun. Over the next three years, multi-million pound investments from Network Rail, First Capital Connect and the Department for Transport will refurbish and extend platform canopies, and erect waiting shelters.

Platforms 3 and 5 are being extended to accommodate 12-carriage trains, improving capacity on the outer suburban routes, and a vital scheme to boost capacity on the East Coast Main Line between Finsbury Park and Alexandra Palace will also have disused platforms brought back into use at both stations, along with the conversion of a freight-only line for use by passenger services. In the short term this will ease congestion and improve service reliability. In the longer term, as more trains are made available through the Thameslink Programme, the upgrade will make space for more services across all routes, including direct trains through to London Bridge and beyond.

Connecting the new platform at Finsbury Park to the rest of the station will be a new, fully accessible footbridge with lifts, providing step-free access between the ticket office and all platforms for the first time. It is anticipated that both the new platform and footbridge will be in use by 2013.

In the longer term, as the new Thameslink trains are delivered, the work will mean that more services can be added to reduce overcrowding in the rush hour, with many of the trains from 2018, running directly across the Capital to London Bridge and beyond. Work to refurbish and extend the canopies has begun and is due to be completed by the end of the year. An old platform at Bushey station is to rebuilt to allow later weekend and Sunday morning services to call. The work is in response to local demand for the extra trains. The new timetable is expected to operate from December this year.

ATOC figures show market share increase on East Coast

Figures published by the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC) show that in the last five years, East Coast's market share on the routes linking Edinburgh and Newcastle with London, has risen significantly against those of the airlines.

Its market share on the Edinburgh to London route grew from 21% in 2008 to 27% last year; while its share on the Newcastle to London route grew from 59% in 2008 to 64% last year. The news comes as East Coast prepares to introduce a new timetable on 22nd May, the biggest change in 20 years, providing more seats, more services, improved frequency and faster services – and featuring a prestigious new 'Flying Scotsman' early morning non-stop weekday express from Edinburgh and Newcastle to London King's Cross, completing the journey between the capitals in just four hours. Between 2006 and 2010, number of passengers using flights between Newcastle and London fell by 36.6%.

Tesco to increase use of rail with new distribution centre

Supermarket chain Tesco has announced that it is to dramatically increase its use of rail transport.

The company's Grocery Distribution Centre will open at Daventry International Rail Freight Terminal this summer, with the capacity to handle eight trains a day, taking an estimated 100,000 lorry journeys off the road each year. The new energy-efficient building includes rain water harvesting for both vehicle washing and toilets, together with 1.5km of trackwork.

The new facility will replace the current grocery centre at Milton Keynes, which is no longer able to cope with the volume of products required.

▼ **In what would be an ideal candidate for an April Fool, if it wasn't true, GBRailfreight has hired Class 55 'Deltic' No. 55022** *Royal Scots Grey* **for use on its North Blyth to Lynemouth coal flow. The locomotive will work two return trips each day on the service until 1st July. In preparation for the start of operations, the loco moved north 'light engine' on 10th April, and is seen passing Church Fenton. Ron Cover**

UK News In Brief

■ Touch-screen accessibility information pods are being trialled by Southern at Bexhill, Eastbourne, Purley and Streatham Hill stations. The 'Info Pods' have been introduced to enable passengers with disabilities and accessibility needs to look up information via websites to help them with their journeys. The pods link to local accessibility information, interconnecting transport options, local businesses and services and accessibility groups. Although usable by anyone, they have been designed with wheelchair users very much in mind, so the height of the screen is appropriately positioned. In the first week of operation, there were 760 users at the four stations.

■ The line between Barrow-in-Furness and Arnside closed temporarily on 28th March. During the closure, repairs will be undertaken at Lindal Tunnel involving rock stabilisation, shortening it by approximately 20 metres, to take the entrance back to a disused ventilation shaft, and installing rock netting as a preventative measure. The work is scheduled to take three weeks, after which the line from Barrow will reopen as far as Grange-over-Sands, but it will remain closed between Grange and Arnside until mid-July while the viaduct is rebuilt.

■ ScotRail is to introduce a 'Kids Go Free' ticket for Easter travel with their parents and grandparents. It allows up to two children to travel off-peak with each adult, and also allows free admission at a host of attractions across Scotland for children with each paying adult. A new website www.scotrail.co.uk/kidsgofree also provides fare information as well as places well worth a visit under the scheme, such as Deep Sea World in North Queensferry and the Glasgow Science 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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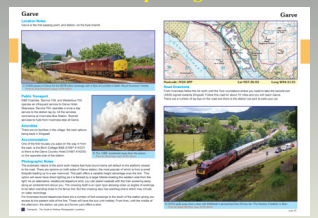
Sample Page



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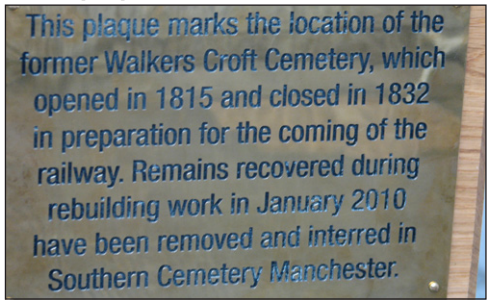
Network Rail marks location of an old cemetery under Manchester's Victoria station

A plaque has been placed on the railings at the head of Platforms 1 and 2 at Manchester Victoria station to mark the location of a former burial ground.

While rebuilding the platforms for Network Rail last year, the contractors uncovered a number of bones that lay close to the foundations of the island platform. The work was halted and the police and coroner's office advised. Investigations revealed that the bones were human and very old. Research has revealed that part of the station had been built over a former graveyard called Walker's Croft Cemetery, which was originally owned by the collegiate church of Manchester, now known as the Cathedral. At about the time the discovery was made, Mrs Catherine Bowers Wain from Grange-over-Sands was carrying out research into her family history, from which she discovered that her great, great, great grandfather Henry Bailey was buried beneath the platform. Mr Bailey was deputy constable of Cheetham and drowned in 1835 trying to save the life of a child who had fallen into the River Irwell.

Mrs Bowers Wain suggested to Network Rail that plaque should be erected to mark the location of the former cemetery.

▼ **The plaque at Manchester. Network Rail**



▼ **Unusually, Class 86/6 No. 86632 was used as the pilot locomotive on a Coatbridge to Crewe Basford Hall service throughout on 31st March. With both the '86' and Class 90 No. 90041 under power, the train passes Euxton Junction, on the outskirts of Preston. The same pairing had previously worked north during the early hours of that morning. Fred Kerr**

New track layout to be installed at York

A new track layout is to be installed at the south end of York station to allow easier train access into the platforms.

Work on site at Holgate, south of York, begins this month to provide an additional line and new junction, and is part of a multi-million programme of improvements to allow faster services and more trains to run on the East Coast Main Line (ECML).

Richard Lungmuss, Route Director for Network Rail, said: "This is the most significant single investment in the railway in this area since electrification. At the moment trains heading from Leeds to the North East and Scotland conflict with other passenger services, often resulting in them being forced to stand before they can access a platform. This has been a frustrating bottleneck for many years and this scheme will bring direct benefits to many thousands of passengers as well as being a key part of wider investment to improve the ECML. The vast majority of rail services will be unchanged during the works, minimising disruption to passengers while we deliver this value-for-money scheme, which will bring real benefits rail users around York".

Construction work begins this month, but the first significant site works will be in early May. There will be some small changes to rail services from 30th July for 12 weeks, and on August Bank Holiday weekend there will be significant changes to services while the new track layout is installed and some electrification work is carried out. These changes will be publicised in advance.

The work is scheduled for completion by October this year and will cost £9.5 million.

▲ **DB Schenker still appears to be short of motive power, with at least two Euro Cargo Rail Class 66s in traffic in Britain, and two DRS Class 66/4s remaining on hire. Here, No. 66029, or 92.70.0066.029-4, to give it its full UIC number(!), descends from Welney Washes, and approaches Manea, with a train of loaded sand hoppers, working from Middleton Towers to Goole on 6th April. Kev Gregory**

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MONARCH
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Railway Herald

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Metro and Light Rail News

T&W Metro Tynemouth line reopens after 23-day upgrade closure

Nexus, which owns, manages and is modernising the Tyne & Wear Metro, reopened the line for services between Byker and Tynemouth on 4th April, following a 23-day closure for track replacement and station upgrades.

North Shields station has reopened, with the exception of Platform 2 for trains in the direction of Newcastle, via Wallsend, which remains closed for several more days. Trains will continue to run through North Shields towards Wallsend without stopping, Howdon, Meadow Well and Chillingham Road stations are also now open, but building work will continue at all three for another three months.

▼ As noted last issue, a special train for retired London Transport staff ran on the Metropolitan Line on 30th March, from Harrow-on-the Hill to Amersham and return using Metropolitan No. 12 *Sarah Siddons*, a 4TC unit and Class 20s Nos. 20189 and 20227. The timetable provided two journeys both ways, but the second was cut short at Rickmansworth due to a fault at Chalfont & Latimer. Here, *Sarah Siddons* heads towards Rickmansworth. Bill Turvill

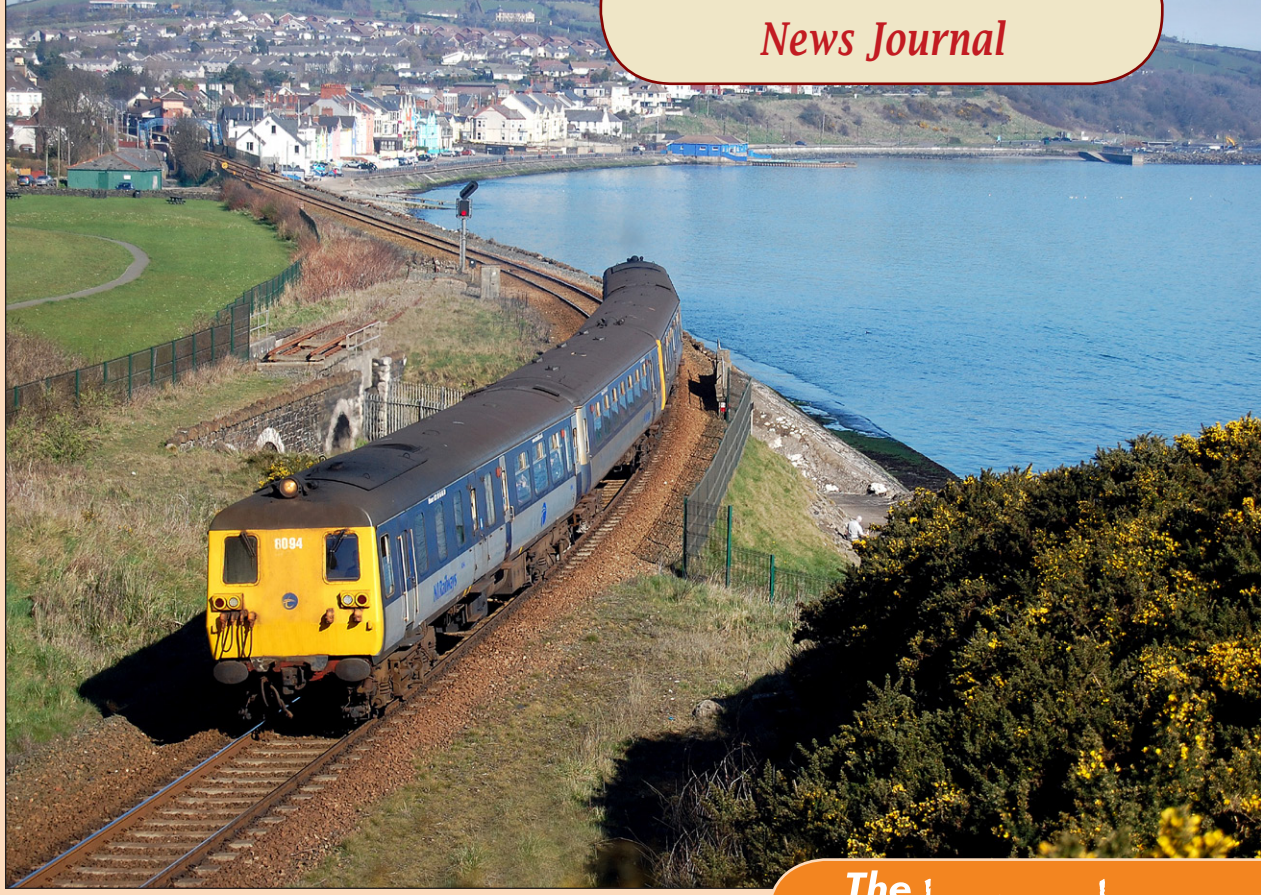
Signalling upgrade for Salisbury route

A major £20 million plan to modernise the signalling infrastructure on the 90-mile Salisbury-Exeter line has been announced by Network Rail.

The signalling equipment dates back to the 1960s and 1980s and is coming to the end of its life. The major upgrade will renew the infrastructure to improve its reliability and extend its lifespan for another 35 years.

Safety will also be improved, as work will be carried out to upgrade equipment on major level crossings along the route.

Work will commence from the beginning of autumn this year and is due for completion during 2012.



The Irish Angle

▲ One of the refurbished Northern Ireland Railways Class 80 DMUs, with 'engine' vehicle No. 8094 leading, forms the 10.57 service from Larne as it departs Whitehead on 23rd March. W.J. Thorley

◀ NIR's latest units, known as the C4k fleet, have now begun testing at night. This was the first main line test at Yorkgate on 31st March, with No. 4001 being gauged between Fortwilliam & Donegall Quay Loop. Night-time testing is planned until summer 2012, when the last unit should be completed and in service. Chris Playfair

◀ London Midland Class 153 No. 153366 brings up the rear of a Northern Rail Wakefield to Selby service at Garforth on 31st March. The unit has been on hire to the Northern TOC since mid-March. **Ron Cover**

◀▼ Shanks-livered Class 66/5 No. 66522 passes Oakley with an Earles Sidings to West Thurrock loaded cement working on 4th April. **Lorenzo D' Aniello**

▼ Once the home base for numerous locomotives associated with the steel traffic out of Lackenby, Thornaby Depot and the adjacent Tees Yard are a shadow of their former selves. The depot, pictured on 5th April, is currently being stripped of all usable assets and is to be demolished shortly. It is believed that the land on which the depot stands has been sold to an undisclosed buyer. **Alex Betteney**

UK Steam & Modern Traction Railtour Listings

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
UK Railtours	tbc	Dumbarton-Arrochar & Tarbet-Crianlarich-& return
Branch Line Society	2xDBS 66	Crewe-Derby-Cheddleton Yard North Side-Sinfin-Chesterfield Dn Gds-Doncaster-Askern-Gascoigne Wood Dn Gds Loop-Brayton Jct-Barlow Sidings-Selby-Heck Plasmor-Scunthorpe Trent Jct-North Lindsey Light Railway-Foreign Ore Branch-Wrawby Jct-Lincoln-East Holmes Dn Gds-Newark Castle-Nottingham Down Main-Lenton & Beeston Up Goods-Beeston-Derby-Blythe Bridge-Alsager-Crewe

24th April 2011

Railway Touring Co.	5029	Bristol Temple Meads-Westbury-Newbury-Reading-London Paddington

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.

NRM and West Coast enter into operational 'understanding' agreement

The return of No. 4472 *Flying Scotsman* **to the main line later this year means that the National Railway Museum (NRM) will be involved in a number of main line charters featuring the flagship locomotive, in addition to other workings.**

Having worked with West Coast Railway Company in the past, the Carnforth-based organisation and the NRM have entered into a 'Memorandum of Understanding', which will govern the basis of the partnership in terms of providing 'general guidance for its operation and as a vehicle for publicising the relationship'. The arrangement is intended to be mutually beneficial, and as part of the agreement, the NRM commits to providing servicing, stabling and engineering facilities to WCRC, if operationally convenient. In addition, it will approach WCRC first when main line stock movements require undertaking. In return, WCRC has committed to provide operational support to the NRM when requested to do so, if operationally convenient, provide advice on wider aspects of main line operations, including staff training, and to assist, when and where possible, in promoting the NRM to a wider audience.

The NRM says that the document has been specifically publicised 'in order that the rail industry in particular is clear about the strength of the relationship, and the significant benefit it brings to both the NRM and WCRC'. It allows the NRM to maintain a capability that includes a variety of operational aspects from depot shunting through to charter operations, through, what the museum describes as 'professional and mutually beneficial partnership' with a major railway operator.

This transparency is positive, especially as it actually highlights the mutual benefits that each party will draw from the partnership at a time when economic conditions are likely to lean heavily on business margins, and particularly on organisations engaged in the charter train sector. It will be interesting to see what develops from this 'understanding', especially as it is to be reviewed annually.

▼ **DBS Class 67 No. 67018** *Keith Heller* **traverses the little used single line between Sandbach and Middlewich with UK Railtours 'City and Moorland' Railtour on 2nd April. Nigel Capelle**

Railtour Spotlight

by John Whitehouse

Railway Touring Company's 'Great Britain IV' commences this coming Saturday, and can now boast that it offers the chance to travel by steam from the Far North East of the Kingdom to the Far South West.

The fact that this is happening over 40 years since the official end of main line steam in this country is something to be quite proud of. It is simply an amazing event and an illustration of what can be achieved where there is the will, energy and commitment.

'GBIV' this year has an anti-clockwise itinerary and sets out from King's Cross with 'A4' Pacific No. 60019 *Bittern*, which is reported to be masquerading as No. 4492 *Dominion of New Zealand* in garter blue livery with the possibility of valences covering the motion. With the benefit of the additional tender, the 'A4' will work through to Tyne Yard, where another blue 'A4', No. 60007 *Sir Nigel Gresley*, will take over for the remainder of the journey to Edinburgh Waverley. Day 2 has 'Royal Scot' 4-6-0 No. 46115 *Scots Guardsman* working from Waverley through to Inverness, via the Forth and Tay Bridges and Aberdeen.

The next day has always been seen as a potential problem, primarily because the recently enhanced First ScotRail service means weaving a charter path between the service trains, and Inverness to Wick and back in a liberal interpretation of what would be a reasonable day out is nigh on impossible. Presently it is Plan C, or maybe Plan D, but passengers will be taken to Wick by bus, before returnng behind 'Black 5s' Nos. 44871 and 45407, which will have worked up to the Far North the previous day. Even so, an early evening arrival in Inverness is the best that can be obtained, especially with a sunrise departure planned for Day 4 featuring 'K4' Mogul No. 61994 *The Great Marquess* from Inverness to Kyle of Lochalsh and return.

Day 5 sees a more sociable late morning departure from Inverness for Glasgow Central, again with Ian Riley's 'Black 5s'. It will also be a good day for steam, as it is likely that an engine and support move featuring Nos. 46115 and 61994 will precede the main train south, with *Scots Guardsman* then being in position to haul the next day's leg from Glasgow Central to Preston, via the Glasgow and South Western route.

Great Western power features next, with No. 5029 *Nunney Castle* booked to work the Preston to Bristol leg on Good Friday, 22nd April, as well as the final day's working from Bristol to Paddington, via Newbury on 24th April. Sandwiched between these two runs is the all-important Temple Meads to Penzance leg with 'Black 5' No. 45305 and 'Britannia' Pacific No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell*, which secures for the RTC the accolade of working with steam from Wick to Penzance! The train returns from Penzance to Temple Meads diesel-hauled.

The above outline of 'GBIV' is how, it is believed, the charter operate and by and large, this has been confirmed by timings that have been seen for each day of the tour. However, if one were to look at the description of 'GBIV' on the RTC website, readers will see some significant differences, especially concerning motive power and the arrangements for the working to the Far North. It is disappointing that these details have never been updated, as currently its website does not present an accurate description of the tour. This criticism also applies to other tours it is (and has) promoted, which leaves the RTC open for potential claims, as well as harming a well-earned reputation for being one of our best and most innovative railtour operators. The message is that websites need to be attractive, informative and most importantly, accurate.

GWR 'Castle' class 4-6-0 No. 5043 *Earl of Mount Edgcumbe* has an enviable reputation for both hard work and reliability, and on 16th April, it ventures into 'enemy territory' once more to pit its strength against Copy Pit, with Vintage Trains 'Red Rose'. This will be a gruelling day out for the enginemen, as the train is steam-hauled throughout from Tyseley Warwick Road to Blackburn, running via Crewe, Stockport, Standedge, the Calder Valley and Copy Pit in the morning, while the return will enjoy the easier grades to Crewe, via Faringdon Junction and Warrington Bank Quay. We understand that Bob Meanley is currently recuperating from an illness that has seen him sidelined since Christmas. We all wish Bob a full and speedy recovery.

Two steam-hauled charters are booked through Stafford within an hour of each other on 16th April, No. 5043 is first around 09.30, followed an hour later by No. 6201 *Princess Elizabeth* heading for Chester from London Euston on a Steam Dreams 'Cathedrals Express'. This will be the second visit on successive Saturdays to Chester for 'Lizzie', making it a busy day for steam on the WCML.

Earlier, on 13th April, Steam Dreams heads for Lincoln with Battle of Britain Pacific No. 34067 *Tangmere* in charge. This is another of the company's 'provinces' workings, as it originates at Basingstoke, and heads north via Farnborough Main, Finsbury Park, and the ECML. From Peterborough it is booked over the old GE&GN 'joint' line through Spalding and Sleaford to Lincoln, while the return takes the more direct route via Swinderby to Newark and then the ECML south.

The GE & GN Joint Line also forms part of UK Railtours itinerary on 16th April, as its 'York and The Line Time Forgot' is a straight forward outward working from King's Cross to York, but with the return diverging at Doncaster and heading back south via the Joint Line, the rustic nature of the route being reflected in the trains title!

Compass Railtours has two trips planned for Dundee, which feature both the Forth and Tay Bridges in their itinerary; on 13th April the 'Mersey Forth & Tay Circular' originates at Crewe, and works via Liverpool Lime Street and Wigan North Western, and outwards over the bridges, returning via Stirling. Two days later the 'Forth &Tay Express' sets out from Blackpool, running via the East Lancashire route, Copy Pit and the Calder Valley, crossing the Forth and Tay in both directions. Also on 16th April, Statesman head for Carlisle with 'The Settle & Carlisle Statesman' from Gloucester, via Kidderminster to Wolverhampton, for a return working over the S&C, while on the same day Chester Model Railway Club's annual tour, organised jointly with the Ffestiniog Railway Dee & Merseyside Group, heads for Kingswear from Hooton and the North & West route.

▼ **GWR Hall Class No. 4965** *Rood Ashton Hall* **and GWR Castle Class No. 5043** *Earl of Mount Edgcumbe* **pass Croome Perry Wood, near Worcester, on 2nd April, with the 'Coronation Express' charter from Tyseley to Didcot. Neil Pugh**

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Hastings Diesels head to Quainton Road

Hastings Diesels' next excursion with its beautifully restored DEMU will be to 'Metroland' on 14th May, which includes options to visit Beaconsfield, Aylesbury and the Buckinghamshire Railway Centre at Quainton Road.

The DEMU will also be undertaking two shuttle trips from Quainton Road to Claydon Junction. This offers the opportunity of travelling over the freight-only route used by the 'Binliner' trains from beyond Aylesbury Vale Parkway station.

'The Metrolander' originates at Hastings, and picks up at the usual points through to Tonbridge, and then at Bromley South and Kensington Olympia. Future plans for 2011 include visits to Swanage and Butterley.

▲ **LMS 'Black 5' No. 44871 was a late replacement for the Battle of Britain No. 34067** *Tangmere* **on 2nd April, on 'The Cheshireman' charter from Cleethorpes to Chester. Here, the charter crosses the Leeds & Liverpool canal on the approach to Standedge tunnel. Paul Braybrook**

▶ **BR Standard 7P Pacific No. 70000** *Britannia* **leads GWR 'King' No. 6024** *King Edward I* **pass Farleaze, working from Bishops Lydeard to Didcot. Having detached the 'King' at Didcot,** *Britannia* **continued on to Southall in preparation for its first railtour working. Stephen Moore**

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

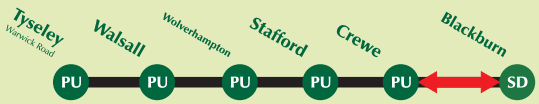
Includes a full English breakfast and a traditional 3-course dinner.
Tables for two in First Class and Premier Dining : £20 per table (£10 per person extra)

TO BOOK CONTACT VINTAGE TRAINS

0121 708 4960

OR FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.vintagetrains.co.uk



Merchant Navy Pacific No. 35028 *Clan Line* steams through the Surrey Hills at Abinger Hammer on 1st April, with a VSOE circular luncheon train from London Victoria. **Stuart Chapman**

The light grey haze from the chimney-top suggests that the pioneer Britannia Pacific No. 70000 *Britannia* is making easy work of the Great Western Main Line as it approaches Shottesbrooke, near Maidenhead, with the Oxford - Canterbury 'Cathedrals Express' on 7th April.
Peter Lovell

Trains and boats and cranes. Ian Riley's LMS 'Black 5' No. 44871 crosses the River Weaver at Frodsham with 'The Cheshireman' railtour bound for Chester on 2nd April.
Nigel Capelle

With Class 47/4s Nos. 47802 and 47501 leading, and Class 47/7 No. 47790 on the rear, the 'Northern Belle' passes Burn on the ECML, on the return leg of a luncheon circular from Derby and Nottingham on 2nd April. **Richard Tuplin**

Tornado's boiler returns from Germany and it's full steam ahead

The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust's LNER Pacific was reunited with its boiler, fresh from repairs in Germany, at the National Railway Museum in York on 8th April.

Having been transported to DB Meiningen, the necessary repairs have now been undertaken and the boiler hydraulically tested to 375psi. After being grit-blasted, it was reloaded back onto a lorry, for the return journey to Yorkshire. After the North Sea ferry crossing, the Allelys lorry arrived at the NRM during the late morning on 8th April.

After a short wait while the mobile crane was positioned, and additional pieces of lifting equipment brought onto site, the boiler was finally lifted from the road trailer, turned to face the right direction and slowly lowered into the waiting frames of the A1. The A1 Trust volunteers and operational team are now working to reconnect all the various parts of the locomotive prior to a steam test, which is expected to be undertaken during the validity of this issue.

The final parts of *Tornado's* winter maintenance will then be completed, prior to a test run being undertaken and the locomotive returning to the main line in late May. Its first charter service of the year, will be on 26th May, working for Steam Dreams from London to Bath and Bristol. Following this a busy programme during June, will take the loco to York, Shrewsbury, Poole and Canterbury.

▲ The boiler is slowly lowered back into the frames outside the NRM on 8th April.

◀ (From top to bottom) The boiler arrives at York, being lifted from the lorry, being turned for positioning, and being lowered into the frames. All: Ron Cover

26 diesel locos, two railways, one event! GCR joins with GCR(N) for May diesel festival weekend

The Great Central Railway and the Great Central Railway (Nottingham) are joining forces to provide a 26 locomotive diesel gala on 14th/15th May.

The event is expected to feature the following locos in action at the GCR - Class 20 No. D8098, Class 25 No. D5185, Class 31 No. D5830, Class 37 No. 37198, Class 46 No. D123, Class 47 No. D1705 and a further 10 in action at the GCR (N) - Class 20s Nos. 20007 & 20154, Class 25 No. 25279, Class 46 No. 46010, Class 47s Nos. 47292 & 47765, Class 56 No. 56097 and Class 73 No. 73110, plus two guest locos, subject to availability from British American Railways, Class 31 No. 31454 and Class 56 No. 56303. There will be a bus link between the two railways, allowing passengers to experience an intensive timetable behind the same class of loco at each location on the same day! Real ale will be served throughout the event, with the popular 'All-Day Breakfasts' on the GCR.

Through ticketing will be available (Leicester North - Ruddington!), with the 'Greater Great Central Gala' rover ticket, which will include a free bus link between the two railways, as well as Loughborough Midland station. Separate GCR and GCR (N) fares and concessionary tickets are also available. See the website for further details and how to book, closer to the event. There will also be a diesel-only operation on the NSMEE miniature railway at Ruddington.

▲ **BR Standard 5MT No. 73050** *City of Peterborough* **arrives at Wansford with the 09.40 service from Peterborough on 2nd April, during the Nene Valley Railway's 'Mixed Traffic Weekend' Chris Horkley**

▲ **London Brighton & South Coast Railway Class E4 0-6-2T No. 473 heads through the early morning mist at Horsted House Farm on the Bluebell Railway during a Jon Bowers photographic charter on 31st March. Stuart Chapman**

RED hot race in phone vote to decide the next livery for *Duchess of Sutherland*

Since the last update, the voting for the livery to be carried by LMS Princess Coronation No. 6233 *Duchess of Sutherland* **has literally become red hot; that is because from languishing in third place two weeks ago, crimson lake has surged into the lead, now polling a staggering 585 votes as at 10th April.**

This represents an increase of over 300 votes since the last report, which has pushed BR green into second place with 553 votes. While the green vote shows steady gains through a wide voter base, it does seem that fewer people are voting for crimson lake, but are prepared to spend more money to champion their cause! However, while the BR blue camp seemed to be losing ground last week, there has been a surge, too, in the blue vote, polling a handsome 112 votes this week to bring it back into contention with an overall 511 votes to date.

Pity poor old Ivatt LMS black, though, having received just two votes this week to push its tally to a miserable 65! It doesnt appear that we will be seeing a black Duchess for a while.

One thing does look certain, however, which is that the cost of the locos next repaint is well and truly covered. Full details of how to cast your vote can be found on the PRCLT's website by clicking here.

Royal opening for Wirksworth

Ten years of sheer effort and commitment has reclaimed nearly nine-miles of the branch line from Duffield to Wirksworth in Derbyshire from nature, and on 6th April the first passenger train left the recently reinstated platform at Duffield since services were 'suspended' in 1947.

Among the dignitaries on board was HRH The Duke of Gloucester, who later performed the formal opening ceremony at Wirksworth. BR Standard Class 2MT Mogul No. 78019 headed the train and will be enjoying an extended two-month stay on the line. Significant pruning and cutting back of lineside vegetation and trees has opened up the vista from the train as it passes through the rolling countryside of Derbyshire, with currently just one intermediate station at Idridgehay. A halt at Shottle is due to open next year.

▲ BR Standard 2MT No. 78019 arrives at Wirksworth with the Royal Train on 6th April. In the adjacent headshunt is Class 20 No. D8001.

▶ 'Your Railway Needs You' is the message from HRH The Duke of Gloucester as he performs the official opening ceremony of the extended EVR! **Both: John Whitehouse**

Level crossing damage leaves Bowes Railway future in the balance

The Bowes Railway is facing an uncertain future after a car crash damaged a level crossing.

The organisation says it has made an insurance claim, but it could take months to sort out. In the meantime, the lack of a steam-hauled service will damage income, further adding to the uncertainty of the museum, which, its chairman admits, has no cash reserves. The railway remains open, and is urging people to continue to visit. The line was originally built in 1826 to take coal to the Tyne, and currently features the only operational standard-gauge rope railway in the world.

Mid-Norfolk steams into summer with *King Edward II* visit

The Mid-Norfolk Railway is beginning to establish itself as something of a niche operation.

Until now it has been a primarily diesel-operated railway, which has held some interesting and innovative galas, of which more will follow. Steam operations have been sparse, highlighted by the hire-in of 9400 class Pannier tank No. 9466 for the high season last year, which enabled the railway to run a rare steam service.

But now the 'Big One' has been landed, as the blue GWR 'King' No, 6023 *King Edward II* is to visit the railway later this year. It will be the first time that the newly restored 'King' has operated outside its base at Didcot. The visit is scheduled to run from 4th June through to the 17th July, during which time No. 6023 will run four round trips during each weekend until Sunday 3rd July.

A special timetable will operate on 9th & 10th July, with the 'King' being joined by No. 9466, which is again visiting the Mid-Norfolk for the high season. A steam gala weekend is planned for the following weekend, which will again feature both locomotives. There will also be mid-week running with *King Edward II*, commencing on Wednesdays 22nd & 29 June. This will be followed by workings on Wednesdays and Thursdays in July, which will be on the 6th, 7th, 13th and 14th.

Ahead of the visit of the 'King' is another special diesel gala weekend on 14th & 15th May, entitled 'Drags and Rescues', which will feature any number of traction combinations in action. An East Midlands Trains HST set will be visiting the railway on a railtour from London St Pancras during the day, and hopefully will take part in the proceedings during its stay. Class 86 No. 86101 *Sir William A Stanier* is another visitor that will be involved in the dragging part of the event. The following weekend will see the blue & grey-liveried Class 421 3CIG EMU No. 1497 *Freshwater* in action being hauled by resident Class 73 No. 73210 *Selhurst* and Class 50 No. 50019 *Ramilles*.

Recession hits the Severn Valley as 12 staff are made redundant

'A leaner but fitter' Severn Valley Railway is the message from Bewdley following the decision to make 12 staff redundant, including one of their most senior employees, Traffic Manager Dewi Jones, whose responsibilities, say the SVR, have been distributed to other posts.

The redundancies include other full and part time staff, who were involved in functions such as finance, shops or visitor services. These cuts are on the back of a poor trading performance in 2010, with visitors down 10% on the target of 245,000, which translates into an estimated loss of revenue of around £240,000. The annual results will be announced shortly and shareholders are braced for a significant loss, probably well into six-figures. However, the SVR also confirmed that the same shareholders had also invested a further £250,000 in the company during 2010, which will go a long way in neutralising their current financial difficulties as well as making a contribution to the remaining financial liabilities resulting from the flood. This is good news, as the SVR will have lost further revenue in the first quarter of this year due to the closure of the line for necessary civil engineering work at Arley and Bewdley. No trains ran after New Year until the end of February, when a shuttle service was introduced between Bridgnorth and Highley, while the full service between Kidderminster and Bewdley resumed at the end of March. The previous years' operations during this period have brought in good revenue, usually boosted by an early March gala.

However, the SVR remain buoyant by the news that despite the closures 6,600 passengers were carried, slightly up on a budgeted 6,400. In response to the current situation, SVR General Manager, Nick Ralls, said: "We have had to take some tough, unpalatable decisions over the winter because quite simply, recession means fewer passengers spending less money".

Other measures to improve performance in 2011 include some paring back in the timetable of some lightly used trains, introducing a fares incentives scheme and promoting more events at the railway, including non-core activities such as concerts featuring tribute bands, which is a good example of making more of such events as the 1960s weekend. There is also a plan to profit from the 'Great Train Robbery', as the SVR owns one of the TPO vehicles involved in that infamous event.

It has not been a happy period either for the SVR's operating fleet of locomotives, which currently consists of 'Prairies' Nos. 4566 and 5164, 'Manor' No. 7812 *Erlestoke Manor*, Ivatt Moguls Nos. 46443 and 43106, together with Stanier Mogul No. 42968. At the beginning of April three of these were out of traffic, with No. 43106 still undergoing cylinder repairs following damage caused by the cold weather before Christmas, No. 7812 having a flue tube repair following an early return from the West Somerset Railway, and No. 46443 with piston damage incurred while on loan at the East Lancashire Railway. The latter two are expected back into traffic for Easter, which will, no doubt, result in an audible sigh of relief from the Bridgnorth Locomotive Works!

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The Statfold Barn Railway's newly-restored Mallet 0-4-4-0T, has arrived on the Welsh Highland Railway for extensive testing and is expected to offer performance approaching a Double-Fairlie. The Mallet design has a rigid main frame that supports the rear end of the boiler. At the front of the main frames are the high-pressure cylinders. A sub-frame, carrying a second set of driving wheels powered by low-pressure cylinders, is positioned ahead of and pivoted to the main frames. The overall result is a compact but powerful locomotive able to negotiate tight curves. It is believed to be the first time that a Mallet has operated on a public railway in the UK. FR

'The Snowdonian' railtour, operated by the Ffestiniog Railway on 2nd April, created history for the railway by being the first time that double-headed Double-Fairlies had run over the Welsh Highland Railway. Looking magnificent as they negotiate Fridd Isaf curve on the final approach to Rhyd Ddu, *David Lloyd George* **and** *Merddin Emrys* **head the return working from Caernarfon, on their way back to Porthmadog. The train started from Porthmadog Harbour and headed to Blaenau Ffestiniog, before running through to Caernarfon, and finally returning to Harbour station. John Stretton**

GWR Dukedog 4-4-0 No. 9017 from the Bluebell Railway, heads alongside the River Dart at Stretchford on the South Devon Railway on 4th April during a Steam Recreations Photographic Charter. **Stuart Chapman**

A new temporary flow, precipitated by a fire at a steelworks in the Netherlands, is from Trostre to IJmuiden, via Dollands Moor. Class 60 No. 60013 *Robert Boyle* passes Coedkernew on 31st March, with the 09.20 Trostre to Llanwern which then later continued to Dollands Moor behind Class 66/0 No. 66117. **Phil Trotter**

Freightliner Class 66/5 No. 66585 *The Drax Flyer* **heads into the sunset with a loaded coal service from Humber International Terminal to Ferrybridge Power Station, as it approaches Crowle, between Scunthorpe and Doncaster on 7th April. Richard Tuplin**

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.

▼ **GBRf Class 66/7 No. 66703** *Doncaster PSB 1981 - 2002* **powers through Seven Kings on 4th April with a heavily loaded Felixstowe to Hams Hall intermodal service. Jack Boskett**

Plymouth Rly Circle
St Edward's Church Hall, Home Park Avenue, Peverell, Plymouth. 'The Classic Traction Collection' by Steven Andrews. Starts 19.30. £2 Admission.

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 BR Photographic Unit' by John Goss. Starts 19.15. Contact 01252 315967.

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 01925 226473.

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 (London)
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

With the Stanlow petroleum complex and Welsh Mountains as a backdrop, an unidentified Arriva Trains Wales Class 175 DMU crosses Frodsham Viaduct with the 11.44 Llandudno – Manchester Piccadilly service on 2nd April. Nigel Capelle

Magazine Information

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Railway Herald is produced by Railway Herald Ltd (Registered as company number 05837609 in England).
VAT Registration: 942 6509 14
Registered office: Hobarn House, 12 Brompton Road, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL6 1DY

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